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11 April 1988

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Shorter-Range Missiles Destroyed in Kazakhstan

LD101535 Moscow World Service in English
1500 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] The first six Soviet shorter-range missiles liable for scrapping under the INF Treaty with the United States have been exploded at the proving range in southern Kazakhstan. In accordance with the treaty not only the missiles are to be abolished but also the launchers and all auxiliary equipment involved. The Soviet side decided to get rid of this class of arms by exploding them.

The paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says the explosion, although strong, did not do damage to the environment, which the Kazakh public had feared. The paper recalls the treaty provides for abolishing the missiles without their nuclear charges so the fears about a radioactive contamination are groundless. As for the consequences of the use of conventional explosives, thorough examinations of the soil and air following the explosion showed no harmful substances.

In an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, an officer in charge said the soldiers and commanders understood the importance of their work. The abolishing of missiles is a step towards lesser tension in Soviet-American relations. It will help reinforce international security.

U.S. Conducts Nuclear Test in Nevada 7 Apr

LD072130 Moscow TASS in English 2114 GMT
7 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 8 TASS—Another underground nuclear explosion has been conducted at a test site in Nevada. It was the second underground nuclear test this year. According to a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy, the capacity of the explosion was under 20 kilotons. The nuclear device was set off Thursday in a silo at a depth of 240 m, 100 km to the north-west of Las Vegas. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS, the test was connected with work for the creation of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Attempts To Unlink SDI, Strategic Arms

LD081658 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—By TASS military writer Vladimir Chernyshev:

Lt. General James Abrahamson, director of the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation, and Ronald Lehman, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, told the Worldnet programme they did not believe that "there should be a rigid linkage between the defensive arms negotiations and the offensive arms negotiations."

Such a statement leads one to wonder whether they in Washington really want to conclude drafting the treaty on reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons within the shortest possible period as it was stated in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement at summit level on December 10, 1987. It was with a view to drafting the strategic offensive weapons treaty that the leaders of the two countries had instructed their delegations in Geneva to work out an agreement that would commit the sides to the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972, when conducting research, development and, of necessity, tests allowed under this treaty, and to non-withdrawal from it during an agreed period. It is not by chance that the joint statement stressed that the agreement on defensive weapons must have the same legal status as the treaty on strategic offensive weapons. The statement by the Pentagon representatives is clearly at variance with what the leaders of the two countries have agreed on.

Moreover, the interrelation between strategic offensive and strategic defensive weapons exists objectively, whether the Pentagon wants it or not. This interdependence, which reflects the objective reality, is fixed in the Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty. The Soviet side resolutely comes out against any attempts to lay the groundwork for circumventing the future agreement on strategic offensive weapons by instigating the race in other areas, primarily by violating the provisions of the ABM Treaty. Strict observance of the obligations, specified under the treaty, is a necessary prerequisite for carrying out radical cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

The striving of the American side to break the link between reductions in the strategic offensive weapons and the preservation of the ABM Treaty, to distort the essence of the agreements reached last December erects obstacles on the way of achieving strategic offensive weapons agreements.

It is highly alarming that at the talks in Geneva the U.S. delegation again proposed to call the agreement, which is being prepared, a treaty between the USA and the USSR on some measures promoting the transition on the basis of cooperation to the deployment of future strategic defense against ballistic missiles. Such an agreement would contribute to watering down and undermining the ABM Treaty rather than to preserving it.

Since the point at issue is the observance of the ABM Treaty along the lines laid down at the summit meeting in Washington and not certain rules for the transition to the deployment of strategic defense, the Soviet delegation proposes to conclude a separate bilateral agreement on observing the ABM Treaty and non-withdrawing from it during an agreed period.

Abrahamson, Lehman 'Worldnet' Remarks on SDI

LD081446 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 8 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin reports:

The U.S. Administration is intensifying the propaganda manipulation of its Western allies for the purpose of convincing them of the need to support Reagan's "Star Wars" program.

This was precisely the aim of the appearance of Lieutenant General James A. Abrahamson, director of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) Organisation, and Ronald F. Lehman, U.S. assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, on the program of the U.S. Worldnet information agency.

Publicizing 'success' of the SDI program in every way, Abrahamson and Lehman asserted with one voice that "it has helped in the arms control process". The U.S. high-ranking figures tried to convince the West European audience that the SDI was not the main obstacle to a reduction in strategic offensive arms.

"We do not believe that these very important reductions in strategic offensive arms ought to be held hostage to any agreement in the defense in space area", Lehman said in answer to journalists' question why the United States did not want to agree to keeping the ABM Treaty for a period of seven to ten years.

"We do not believe that there should be a rigid linkage between the defensive arms negotiations and the offensive arms negotiations", he emphasized.

At the same time Lehman assured that the SDI 'space umbrella' would strengthen West European security, although it is well known that the SDI is to become a 'space shield' only for the United States.

General Abrahamson discoursed at length on the subject but did not say what benefit precisely the Europeans would derive from SDI. He had to admit that there was "a constant debate about SDI" in the United States itself. However, Abrahamson pointed out that the administration did not intend to give up the implementation of the program and would go ahead with it.

The two spokesmen of the administration, in an attempt to justify Washington's striving for strategic superiority through the development of an SDI system, tried to accuse the Soviet Union of developing a space defence system of its own. However, they did not give a single specific fact to confirm that.

USSR Submits More Proposals at Geneva Talks

LD082100 Moscow TASS in English 2033 GMT

8 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva April 8 TASS—Work to draft a treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms and accompanying documents continued here in the past week in the framework of the Soviet-American negotiations on nuclear and space arms. The USSR delegation submitted a number of additional proposals and considerations for purposes of reaching agreement on the provisions of the future arrangement, specifically on questions of control of long-range sea-launched cruise missiles and mobile launchers of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Concrete proposals aimed at bringing closer the positions were submitted by the Soviet side on appropriate articles of the draft treaty as well as the draft protocol on inspections and the draft protocol on conversion or elimination. Questions connected with the drafting of a memorandum on an arrangement on initial data, appended to the future treaty on strategic offensive arms, are being discussed.

The United States delegation submitted a number of proposals making it possible to eliminate some discrepancies of the text, mostly as regards the wording. On the whole, a decisive advance at the talks is hampered by the fact that the U.S. side is not prepared to look for solutions to such fundamental questions as restrictions on long-range sea-launched cruise missiles, the procedure of counting long-range air-launched cruise missiles, etc.

The group on space arms continued the discussion connected with the preparation of a joint draft agreement on matter of the observance of the ABM Treaty in accordance with the instruction given to the delegations on the results of the talks between the USSR minister of foreign affairs and the U.S. secretary of state in March.

The Soviet side is strictly guided by the provisions of the joint statement of December 10, 1987. The U.S. side actually carries the matter to a revision of the Washington arrangement, presses for the legalisation of its plans to deploy systems and components of anti-missile defenses in space, banned under the ABM Treaty. This stand of the U.S. side hampers agreeing upon a joint draft of a separate agreement on the observance of the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, and not withdrawing from the treaty for a specified period of time. It is known, however, that reaching an agreement to this effect is the indispensable prerequisite for making 50 per cent cuts in Soviet and American strategic offensive arms.

'Friendship-88' Joint Exercises Begin in GDR

*LD081550 Moscow TASS in English 1540 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Berlin April 8 TASS—A joint exercise codenamed "Friendship '88" and involving units of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic, the Polish Army and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany began in this country today.

The combined number of troops participating in the exercise is 20,000. It is being conducted to raise the training standards of personnel and improve interaction between different arms of the services.

The exercise is being commanded by Lieutenant-General Horst Stechbarth, deputy national defense minister of the GDR.

In keeping with the document of the Stockholm Conference, observers from states taking part in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe were invited to attend the exercise.

Loginov: Pact Shows Readiness To Solve Problems

*LD071147 Moscow TASS in English 1131 GMT
7 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—The Warsaw Treaty's meeting of foreign ministers in Sofia has demonstrated the readiness of these nations to apply every effort to solve the more important global problems of the times, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vadim Loginov has said in an interview with NEW TIMES magazine.

He said they consider it a priority to put an end to the arms race, prevent it from spilling over into outer space, further the newly-started disarmament process and positive international trends and make them irreversible.

Loginov called attention to the Sofia address to the NATO members and all countries attending the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as a landmark event.

"We called for concentrating attention and efforts on specific areas which, in our view, are of priority significance and lead to possible solutions to a wide range of international, most notably European, problems.

"In short, the address sets tasks which not only the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, but also the whole of Europe and all humanity are interested in accomplishing."

"This address of ours," the Soviet deputy foreign minister said, "can be seen as a kind of reply to the final documents of the NATO summit in Brussels. The reply has been needed because along with various positive aspects, the Brussels meeting has put forward a different kind of concepts as well.

"These include, for example, the notorious 'compensation'—the modernization of weapons to be abolished in the course of disarmament or their replacement with new kinds of arms. We reject this kind of approach flatly.

"The address also makes specific proposals, for instance an invitation to exchange data about armaments and armed forces and to identify and eliminate asymmetries and imbalances, which can help end false claims about the Warsaw Treaty's alleged military superiority in Europe."

"We do not expect an immediate, quick answer," Loginov continued. "We understand that it takes time to weigh and ponder things. But we count, of course, on an eventual positive response.

"As far as we are concerned, we are prepared to provide the requisite data and to conduct all further talks and identify and eliminate existing asymmetries and imbalances proceeding from concrete data," he added.

"This is a new development in the issue of reducing armed forces and armaments in Europe. The placing of the issue of naval armaments is new as well. This is very important as the development of naval forces and their presence in various regions poses a grave danger to peace," the Soviet deputy foreign minister said.

Sofia Foreign Ministers Pact Meeting Assessed

*PM071629 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
5 Apr 88
Second Edition p 1*

[Editorial: "Security Priorities"]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has initiated positive trends in the development of the international situation. To consolidate and develop these trends is one of the chief tasks now facing mankind.

Precisely this was discussed at the regular session of the Warsaw Pact states' Foreign Ministers Committee held in Sofia at the end of March. The session examined a wide range of international problems—European problems above all. Noting that the situation in Europe and the world as a whole remains quite complex and contradictory, the ministers emphasized the pressing need to advance the disarmament process and create a nuclear-free, nonviolent world.

The session participants advocated the speediest completion of the process of ratifying the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which is generally recognized as being of historic significance. But the treaty is just the first step, which must be followed by new agreements aimed at reducing strategic offensive arms, preventing an arms race in space, totally banning nuclear tests, eliminating nuclear, chemical, and other

kinds of mass destruction weapons, reducing armed forces and conventional arms in Europe, lowering military spending, and resolving other questions of security and disarmament.

A cardinal measure in the disarmament sphere would be the conclusion of a Soviet-U.S. agreement to halve their strategic offensive arms while observing the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972 and not withdrawing from it for a specified term. The Soviet side's position on this question was supported in full at the Sofia session.

The Sofia session devoted chief attention to the tasks of advancing the all-European process. The session participants expressed their countries' firm intention to strive for substantial reductions in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals and the speediest commencement of corresponding talks. The historically established asymmetries and imbalances in the sphere of conventional arms in Europe would be removed here on a reciprocal basis by means of reductions on the part of whomsoever is ahead in a particular type of arms. This would accord with the principles of the sides' equality and identical security and with the interests of all European countries. All steps would be taken on the basis of an exchange of the necessary data under an efficient regime of verification and monitoring.

The subject of the talks would be armed forces and conventional arms and military hardware, including dual-purpose means without their nuclear component. The nuclear component of dual-purpose means would itself be the subject of separate talks. Such talks must not be postponed for long. It was declared in Sofia that the Warsaw Pact states are, as before, ready to hold them simultaneously with talks on conventional arms and confirm the goal proclaimed by them—the complete elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

The creation of an indivisible Europe of peace and cooperation, of an "all-European home" in which an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and trust would be asserted, would accord with the interests of all European peoples. The appeal to NATO member states and to all the CSCE participant countries adopted at the Sofia session has elicited a broad response on the continent. This document defines a range of priority tasks, on whose resolution it is necessary to concentrate the efforts of all countries in the name of lending a continuous and irreversible nature to the disarmament process and concluding new agreements aimed at further reducing stock-piled arsenals of weapons, establishing military equilibrium at an increasingly low level, and removing the danger of war on the European continent and throughout the world.

The security priorities advanced by the fraternal socialist countries include, in particular, a total ban on nuclear weapon tests, a ban on chemical weapons, the elimination of their stocks, the creation of zones free from

nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans and in central and northern Europe, the reduction of arms and the enhancement of trust in central Europe, the beginning of talks with the participation of the major naval powers, particularly states possessing nuclear weapons, as well as other interested states, on limiting and prohibiting naval activity in agreed bodies of water, and the announcement of a 1- or 2-year moratorium on increased military spending by the Warsaw Pact states and NATO members with the prospect of its further effective reduction.

The ensuring of greater glasnost and predictability in the military sphere, the exchange of necessary information, and the creation of a strict and efficient system of verifying and monitoring the pledges adopted by the sides would be of special significance for reaching and successfully realizing accords in all the priority spheres indicated in the appeal. The resolution of the said tasks will help to further improve the situation in Europe and result in a real reduction in the threat of war.

The Sofia session attested once again to the persistent desire of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries to curb the arms race and create an all-embracing system of international peace and security. The 31 March CPSU Central Committee Politburo session approved the accords reached in Sofia on the allied states' further efforts aimed at ending the arms race, preventing its transfer to space, imparting an irreversible and ongoing nature to the disarmament process which has begun, and deepening the positive trends in the development of the international situation.

The Warsaw Pact states insistently appeal to the NATO countries and all European states to take advantage of a historic opportunity and continue through joint efforts the progress along the path of disarmament and of strengthening security and cooperation in all spheres. The fraternal socialist countries will, for their part, do all in their power for this.

CEMA Countries Progressing on Civil Aviation *LD052115 Moscow TASS in English 1846 GMT* *5 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—A majority of the member-countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) have filed applications for future purchases of new airlines, which are being created in the Soviet Union. The matter concerns an IL-96 wide-body airliner, which will be capable of carrying 300 passengers to a distance of 8,000-9,000 km and a TU-204 airliner for medium-haul. Airlines, which will carry more than 200 passengers, Vladimir Tikhonov, head of the civil aviation section of the CMEA Secretariat, has told a TASS correspondent.

The mastering of these and other planes and helicopters, which are being developed in CMEA countries, in the 1990s is associated with a radical technical reequipping of the civil aviation of the fraternal countries.

Vladimir Tikhonov pointed out that the specific consumption of fuel of the new-generation airlines will be 35-50 per cent less as that of the airlines now in operation. Their noise level will be lower, and dependability will be greater.

CMEA countries' production specialization and coordination grow deeper in the aircraft manufacturing industry, just as in other branches of industry.

Czechoslovakia continues to upgrade an airliner for local lines. An economical L-610 plane with two turbo-prop engines has been developed there. It is capable of carrying 40 passengers to a distance of more than 1,000 km.

Poland, apart from the manufacture of agricultural planes under orders placed by CMEA countries, also makes sets of horizontal and vertical tailplanes for the manufacture of the Soviet IL-86 liner. The Polish plant PZL-MELEC will also supply such sets for the assembly of the IL-96.

The comprehensive program which was adopted almost a year ago for the scientific and technological progress of the civil aviation of CMEA member-countries in the period ending in the year 2000 has widened the range of cooperation, Vladimir Tikhonov emphasized. All CMEA countries and Yugoslavia expressed a desire to participate in the development and quantity production on the terms of coordination of an IL-114 passenger plane intended for local lines.

The development of the plane is proceeding successfully and at the beginning of the 1990s the fraternal countries will begin to manufacture it. Advanced aeronautical idea which must meet the requirements of all CMEA countries which are to make and operate the plane are being utilised in working out technical solutions.

CMEA Scientific Committee Meets in Moscow
LD081714 Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The 38th session of the CMEA Committee on Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held at the CMEA Secretariat in Moscow on April 7-8, 1988.

In conformity with the agreement between CMEA and the Government of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, the committee session was attended by B. Matic, member of Yugoslavia's Federal Executive Council, chairman of the federal committee for science and technology.

The meeting was chaired by V. Yezhkov, representative of the USSR at the 38th committee session.

The session examined the draft reports on the course of cooperation for the implementation of the comprehensive program for scientific-technical progress of the CMEA member-countries until the year 2000, and on cooperation on the first priority trend of the comprehensive program "electronization of the economy" to be submitted to the CMEA Executive Committee.

In 1987, specific work was started in almost all the CMEA member-countries on most of the items and targets of the comprehensive program, and in discussing the reports, the course of its implementation was examined, the progress made and the drawbacks were noted.

The committee examined a package of issues in connection with a further perfection of the mechanism of implementation of the comprehensive program, including proposals on big target-oriented scientific production and technological projects within the framework of the comprehensive program, which are of decisive significance for developing the economy of the CMEA member-countries and for reaching the highest world standards in production.

The committee session also examined the course of cooperation for developing the international system for automatic exchanges of information between the CMEA member-countries, whose main objective is broad introduction in the economy of new information technology based on the use of computer grids and highly effective program-technological facilities for automatic information exchanges.

The committee session was held in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and constructive comradely cooperation.

Kuwaiti Hijacking 'Strongly Condemned'
LD110938 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—"The latest act of international terrorism—the hijacking of a Kuwaiti Boeing-747 airliner and the holding of passengers as hostages—is being strongly condemned in the Soviet Union", a high-ranking spokesman for the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs told a TASS diplomatic correspondent today.

"What we are witnessing now is a crime under the current international conventions, and again reminds the international community of the importance of intensifying efforts in fighting international terrorism," the spokesman said.

"The Soviet Union is a principled opponent of any forms and manifestations of international terrorism, and is an advocate of large-scale and effective cooperation in the cause of preventing it in accordance with international law."

UN Secretary General Welcomes Geneva Accords
LD082029 Moscow TASS in English 1953 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 8 TASS—U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today issued the following statement on the news that the agreement providing for creating conditions to peacefully settle the situation regarding Afghanistan are ready to be signed:

"I am gratified that the texts of the four instruments for a settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan have been finalized.

"This agreement represents the first step in the efforts to bring about an end of the suffering of the Afghan people. Its implementation in good faith, as for any agreement, remains a key condition for the realization of the purpose inherent in the agreement.

"I trust, therefore, that all concerned, aware as they are of the objections and purposes which the political negotiations tried to achieve, will take no action inconsistent with the letter or spirit of the agreement.

"If peace is to be achieved in Afghanistan, it will certainly not be attained if actions were to be taken which would tend to fuel hostilities.

"This agreement, I believe, goes a long way in bringing about a reality in which the destiny of the Afghan nation will again be in the hands of the Afghan people alone.

"The United Nations shall continue to assist the Afghan people at this difficult moment of their history."

Petrovskiy Interview on UN Session Cited
LD082222 Moscow TASS in English 2201 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The Soviet-American INF Treaty is a signal for action in all areas of world politics, Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR deputy foreign minister, said in an interview with the journal WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (issue No 4). He spoke on the work of the 42nd U.N. General Assembly session, which ushered in the start of renewal of the contents, methods and style of work of the United Nations Organization. The striving of the member-states of that international organization for versatility, i.e. the resolution of questions concerning the well-being and progress of a majority of the international community through political methods, with equal participation of all members of the community manifested itself in broad relief at the session, Vladimir Petrovskiy noted. The shaping of new trends stems from the serious change in international affairs. And it must be frankly said that this change was linked at the session above all with new political thinking and the mode of actions of the Soviet Union.

Touching upon the role of the USA at the U.N., the USSR deputy foreign minister noted that without a full-scale participation of the USA, without its constructive approach to the questions under discussion at the U.N. the functioning of that organization as the centre for coordinating the efforts by all the member-states is impossible. V. Petrovskiy deplored that the USA is preventing a consensus on such issues as prevention of arms race in outer space, that it has refused to participate in the International Conference of Disarmament and Development held under the U.N. aegis, does not participate in UNESCO activities, evades the payment in full of its annual contribution to the U.N. budget and thus creates financial difficulties for the United Nations.

Our policy at the U.N., Vladimir Petrovskiy emphasized, has always been in conformity with the general trend outlined by V.I. Lenin vis-a-vis the international organizations when the Soviet delegation was going to the first international conference in Genoa. The point is the use of the potential of those organizations in order to prevent war. We favour the and [as received] introduction of the potential of positive U.N. recommendations and resolutions, which has been accumulated, into the political practices.

Cooperation Urged in Settling World Conflicts
OW110102 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 1400 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Mulatov commentary: "Build a Bridge of Mutual Understanding"]

[Text] The World Peace Council has done a great deal of extremely important work to create a new and cheerful atmosphere among world public opinion. One of its

organizations, the Committee for the Defense of Peace, with 140 member countries, has been advocating that all countries, irrespective of their social systems, should jointly seek constructive solutions to current international conflicts.

There are many such complicated conflicts in Asia. For instance, the cruel war of killing between Iran and Iraq saddens friends but benefits enemies. There is also confrontation and contradiction in the Middle East, with the Palestinians and other Arab people on one side and Israel and its U.S. ally and protector pursuing short-sighted policies on the other side. They refuse to recognize the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to forming their own country, and vigorously try to make Israel owner of the lands it has annexed or occupied.

Dear listeners, it is very important for the Soviet Union and China, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, to use their political and diplomatic clout to end the Iran-Iraq war as soon as possible and to work for the thorough political settlement of the Middle East conflict. The principled stand of these largest socialist countries toward these hot spots in Asia is very similar, and they hold identical views on major issues.

As Asian week activities are being held, it is quite appropriate to mention the mediation of the Cambodian and Afghan issues. As is known to all, there are differences in the two countries' attitudes toward these issues. But I want to emphasize another point: Both the Soviet Union and China believe that political means should be used to solve conflicts under these circumstances. Only the imperialists desire to continue bloodshed in Afghanistan and to make Cambodians kill Cambodians. Therefore, in the quest for a sound situation and for political solutions to conflicts in Asia, building a bridge of mutual understanding among the Asian countries and their peoples is more important than ever before.

Lastly, I want to point out that the normalization of the situation in Southeast Asia, first of all the situation around Cambodia, depends to a large extent on the improvement of Sino-Vietnamese relations. Building a bridge of mutual understanding is now demanded by the entire world.

Medvedev Meets With Lao, SFRY Ambassadors
PM081419 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88
Second Edition p 7

[TASS report: "Meetings Held"]

[Text] V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received on 7 April Thongsavath Khaykhamphithoune, member of the Lao Peoples Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and Lao ambassador to the USSR, in connection with his upcoming departure for home. A warm, friendly conversation took

place in the course of which the steadfast development and deepening of ties between the CPSU and the LPRP and Soviet-Lao relations was pointed out with satisfaction.

On the same day, V.A. Medvedev received M. Veres, SFRY ambassador in the USSR. A conversation took place on questions of the further development of cooperation between the CPSU and the LCY.

Japan Used for Possible Nuclear Strike on China
LD081207 Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Tokyo April 8 TASS—TASS correspondent Vasily Golovin reports:

In the 1950s and 1960s the USA actively used Japan to prepare for a nuclear strike on China. This is corroborated by reminiscences of former U.S. military pilot Robert Mikesh published by the Tokyo magazine KOKU FAN. Now he heads the Washington National Air and Space Museum. Between 1956 and 1964 he served at U.S. air bases in Japan and directly participated in flights of strategic bombers.

Mikesh writes that at the time it was taken for granted that any conflict would trigger off a nuclear war. For this purpose three squadrons of U.S. strategic bombers were stationed in Japan. In turns, they were on a month-long combat duty in South Korea at the U.S. air base in Kunsan. Six planes there were constantly loaded with nuclear bombs and were to depart for north-eastern China 15 minutes after Washington issued an appropriate order.

Mikesh remembers that during the years of service they learnt by heart targets in China for strikes. The U.S. Air Force was trained to tactics of nuclear bombing at a proving ground in the area of the Japanese city of Mito, north-east of Tokyo, he writes.

"International Situation—Questions and Answers"
LD092236 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0930 GMT 8 Apr 88

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program, presented by Igor Surguchev, with Captain Vyacheslav Kocharov, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA journalist; (Y.K. Livychkin), Foreign Ministry adviser; Vladimir Pasko, not further identified; Andrey Ptashnikov, not further identified; Sergey Pravdin, not further identified; Paris correspondent Oleg Maksimenko; and Nadezhda Riasova, not further identified]

[Excerpts] [Surguchev] [Passage omitted] I would now like to reply to some letters. They contain significantly less questions connected to the Soviet-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which even relatively recently were arriving by avalanche. This is understandable, for the Soviet media paid a great deal of

attention to this important theme: there was a great deal of thorough discussion of it in our broadcasts. All the same, our mailbag contains several letters concerning the destruction of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and disarmament issues in general.

V.M. Mitin from Novosibirsk considers that the Soviet-U.S. treaty should have provided for the destruction of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles of Britain and France. France and Britain, he says, have more than 170 such missiles; to balance that, we should retain as many intermediate- and shorter-range weapons, he says. (P.S. Trigogov) of Potapov village in Gomel Oblast asks how we should understand the withdrawal by the Soviet Union of its missiles from the GDR and CSSR before the ratification and entry into force of the INF Treaty. My colleague, Vladimir Pasko, replies:

[Pasko] While the Soviet and U.S. intermediate- and shorter-range missiles are being destroyed, and cuts in strategic offensive weapons are planned, the nuclear arsenals of Britain and France and the forward-basing systems of the U.S. in Europe are seen in a different light. However, the fact that this issue was not raised during the drafting of the Washington treaty does not mean it has been crossed off the agenda. In accordance with the program for complete removal of nuclear weapons in the world that we put forward on 15 January 1986, we are counting on France and Britain to join in the process of reducing nuclear weapons after a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons by the Soviet Union and the United States.

These hopes are not without foundation. During his visit to Moscow in 1986, President Mitterrand stated that at a certain stage, France will join in the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear disarmament and will take the road of destroying France's own nuclear arsenal. Britain has not yet made such statements, but I suppose that it will also be unable to stay outside this process.

Beyond doubt, the agreement not now to take into account the nuclear potential of these two countries became one of our major concessions. The Soviet Union showed great trust in Western Europe. We are excluding even the thought of, without mentioning strategic plans, the very possibility of war with Britain and France. The aim was also major: to achieve a breakthrough in nuclear disarmament, which took place, and made it possible to emerge on new thresholds. As regards the question of whether our security suffered in this, I can firmly say no, and not because French and British intermediate-range missiles—178 missiles—are only a fraction of 1 percent in the overall volume of nuclear missiles, but because using them would be suicide. This is a special feature of our time; arithmetic has ceased to play the role it once did. Security has become a political issue and not a function of military rivalry. The West continues to display a guarded attitude toward us. We show that it is groundless. Testimony to our desire to destroy nuclear

weapons is the early withdrawal of operational-tactical weapons from the GDR and Czechoslovakia. Naturally, they will only be destroyed after the Washington treaty enters force.

[Surguchev] Comrade Kotin from the (Grizhkavtsiy) village in Zhitomir Oblast asks: What is the position with U.S. ballistic missiles? Will they be included in the treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive weapons, which is now under preparation?

[Pasko] Of course, I will point out in general three types of launchers that are included in the concept of strategic offensive weapons: intercontinental ballistic missiles with a range of over 5,500 kms, and ballistic weapons for submarines and strategic aircraft. On the U.S. side, our intercontinental missiles are seen as a special threat; we see a threat in the U.S. submarine ballistic missiles because they are less vulnerable, are equipped with independently targeted warheads, and are accurate.

[Surguchev] S.I. Zubchenko from Novotolets village in Donetsk Oblast fully supports the treaty but considers that the main threat to us and our allies comes from the U.S. bases, from which a strike can be made.

[Pasko] We see a threat coming from the numerous military bases situated around the Soviet Union, about which Comrade Zubchenko writes. All the same, there is strategic parity between the armed forces of our countries, and of such a nature that if there is a 50-percent cut, the balance will not change. It will be kept, but at a lower level. This was what the Soviet Union proposed to the United States, and they took up our proposal. [passage omitted]

[Surguchev] The reaction of Soviet people to the intrusion by a U.S. Navy ship into our territorial waters in the Black Sea was reflected in our listeners' letters. Expressing indignation over this provocative act by the Pentagon, and sharply condemning it, they at the same time share their thoughts and put a number of questions. [passage omitted] I asked Captain Vyacheslav Kocharov, international journalist from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, to clarify the listeners' questions.

[Kocharov] [Passage omitted] It should be stressed that this provocation, like previous provocations, is not so much military as political by nature. Let us recall that violations of our borders, as a rule, have taken place at a time when Soviet-U.S. relations had seen some improvement. Certain circles in the United States immediately sought out various pretexts to spoil these relations, not shrinking from open provocation. This is what happened, in my opinion, on 12 February, at a time when the U.S. Congress and USSR Supreme Soviet were debating the possibility of ratifying the treaty on the destruction of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. [passage omitted]

What is being done to prevent such incidents in future? Recently, as you know, the first meeting was held between the Soviet and U.S. defense ministers, General Yazov and Frank Carlucci. During this meeting, along with other important issues, the possibility of preventing incidents between Soviet and U.S. Armed Forces was discussed. We hope that in the not-too-distant future, the corresponding documents on this subject will appear. However, only a sharp reduction of military confrontation between the states of the world can serve as a radical means of preventing any military incidents on the ground, in the air, or at sea, which the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have long been calling for. [passage omitted]

[Surguchev] Many of our listeners, complaining, in my opinion with good reason, of the scarcity of information on Albania, ask us to talk about this country, its domestic and foreign policy. They also ask about the reasons for the break in Soviet-Albanian relations and prospects for their normalization. [passage omitted] Here to reply is (Y.K. Livychkin), an adviser to the USSR Foreign Ministry:

[[Livychkin]] I will begin with that which interests our listeners the most—the relations that were established between us and Albania in the sixties and continue now. They form a sad page in our history of interrelationships with socialist countries. [passage omitted] It should be said that the beginning of our divergence in the ideological field relates to the end of the fifties. After we made the appropriate assessment of the cult of Stalin at the 20th party congress, which was specially dear to the Albanian leadership, Albanian comrades found it difficult to accept many of our new assessments and approaches in the international sphere, including our evaluations of the basic content of the modern era, basic trends, problems of peaceful coexistence with the world of capitalism, as well as the radical improvement of relations with Yugoslavia, which took place in those years. Later on, during the process of overcoming some of our ideological divergences, elements of subjectivism and voluntarism were brought in. Unfortunately, they were conveyed also into the sphere of interstate relations. Since then, more than a quarter of a century has passed.

The CPSU and the Soviet Government firmly call for normalization of relations with Albania. We consider that the absence of contacts between us does not correspond to the interests of either country, and is unnatural for relations between states, especially socialist states. In one of his speeches, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev plainly stated that with mutual goodwill, this issue could be resolved in the interests of the peoples of both states, the cause of peace, and socialism.

As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, such will and readiness is there. The matter rests with Albania. Unfortunately, we still do not feel any reciprocity on this matter. We do see that the Albanian leadership, led by

Alia, is gradually trying to take his country out of the isolation in which it stood for so long. A process of restoring and activating links between Albania and several socialist countries on an interstate basis is under way, for example, with Cuba and Vietnam, and on the party level. It is more actively entering into contact with certain West European countries, like Italy and the FRG. It should be pointed out that recently Albania took part in a conference of foreign ministers of the Balkan countries. Presumably, with time, goodwill and restraint will have their beneficial effect, and we will approach restoring Soviet-Albanian relations.

[Surguchev] Comrade (Asadich) from Baku notes that a treaty on friendship and cooperation has been concluded between the USSR and Iraq and asks: Does it oblige our country to provide military aid to Iraq in its war against Iran?

[[Livychkin]] First, I would simply like to recall the content of the treaty. Apart from economic cooperation, the treaty provides for regular consultations at various levels on all the most important issues concerning the interests of both states. In the case of a situation arising which threatens peace in either country, immediate contacts should be mutually made with the aim of bringing standpoints in line in the interests of removing the threat which has arisen. Thus, as you see, the treaty does not mention a word about any military cooperation. As regards our supplies of weapons, this is done on the basis of other intergovernmental agreements and is fully compatible with international law. [passage omitted]

[Surguchev] A. Ponomarenko from Kherson asks what role Denmark plays in NATO's strategic plans.

[[Livychkin]] The role and significance of Denmark for NATO is defined primarily by its geographical position: its proximity to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. The Danish Government itself strictly holds to the NATO line, supporting the arms race and supporting NATO's basic strategic purposes. [passage omitted]

[Pravdin] Libya's independent policy, its socioeconomic measures, provoked the anger of the imperialist forces. The United States and a number of other Western powers are taking measures of economic pressure against Libya. In April 1986 the United States mounted an armed attack on Libya. U.S. planes mounted a missile and bomb strike on Tripoli and Benghazi. The U.S. press at the time plainly wrote that the main target was Al-Qadhdhafi's residence, whom the United States planned to liquidate. As a result, his small son [as heard] was killed. Al-Qadhdhafi survived. The U.S. attack on this independent Arab country provoked indignation throughout the world.

Libya's relations with the Soviet Union, which was one of the first to recognize its independence, continue developing favorably. The two sides are expanding economic and scientific-technical cooperation. They have identical or similar positions on many topical problems of international affairs. Libya actively supports the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and our peace initiatives. [passage omitted on Ryasova and Maksimenko remarks]

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'

*LD101815 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1130 GMT 10 Apr 88*

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, All-Union Radio commentator; Academician Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov, director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations; and Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, political observer]

[Text] [Levin] Hello, esteemed comrades. The week's international events have been in many areas, but certainly the developments surrounding Afghanistan have attracted particular interest and attention. I refer primarily, of course, to the meeting between Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Najibullah of Afghanistan in Tashkent, and the joint Soviet-Afghan declaration adopted at that meeting. I am not going to repeat that declaration in full. I will simply remind you that it contains eight points expressing the approach of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan to a political settlement in Afghanistan and around it, and emphasizing specifically that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan will act in accordance with the declarations published on 8 February 1988. What those declarations amount to is that on the basis of national reconciliation and on the basis of the general development of the situation in Afghanistan and around it, the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, beginning on 15 May, now becomes a real possibility.

[Primakov] Let me make a small correction. That process of national reconciliation is indeed developing, but the withdrawal of the Soviet troops is not being directly linked to the completion of that process or to the setting up of some coalition government in Afghanistan—or to the stabilization of the situation in general. You see, the Soviet troops have been in Afghanistan in response to outside interference, but we are not linking the withdrawal of our troops to the completion of the process of political settlement, or even to any great successes in that process. That is what I wanted to emphasize.

[Shishlin] I think we are dealing with certain quite definite realities. The fact and the reality is the policy of national reconciliation. The fact and the reality is what Yevgeniy Maksimovich has been talking about: the absence of any linkage whatsoever between the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the affairs of the Afghans

themselves. But what I think is also a reality is that, for the first time in recent years, it is being shown and proved in practice that it is possible to use political means to settle a really acute, really dramatic, and even really tragic conflict. We are well aware that, by force of circumstance—unfavorable circumstance—we, too, have been drawn into that conflict. But we are not alone. As Yevgeniy Maksimovich has been saying, other outside forces have also been drawn into the conflict: again, the Americans, but not only the Americans. It seems to me that, in itself, the Afghan example, and here we have a right to be optimistic, will have a useful effect on the development of other regional conflicts, in encouraging the use—in some degree, in some measure, and taking into account the concrete conditions of particular geographical areas—of what is now being done to overcome the Afghan problem.

[Primakov] Certainly! For all the autonomous, great, enormous importance of Afghanistan and of the task of settling the Afghanistan conflict, I fully agree that it is a sort of laboratory, if you like, where many methods are being developed. One of those is the method of national reconciliation. Indeed, the Afghan leadership has taken that path—thereby recognizing, in some measure, the inadequacy of the analysis that had been made previously—not to put it more strongly.

Because previously, it had been thought that the government was really good, really revolutionary, and that those who had come to power could extend their influence over the whole country. That was an unsubtle tendency, if you like. History has not confirmed it. There are other forces also in existence in Afghanistan, which must form part of a coalition leadership. You will probably have noticed that the joint Soviet-Afghan declaration underlines that Afghanistan intends to move toward a pluralistic system—to establish, as it were, a system which will be multiparty, and so on. The Afghan leadership has reached that point, and this has created a foundation for national reconciliation in Afghanistan. That process is running into great difficulties; let us make no bones about it. Why? Because the Peshawar Seven, who form an opposition based in Pakistan, and who claim the right to take a monopoly of power once our troops have been withdrawn—I am sure they will not succeed, but at all events, they are being fattened and supported—the Peshawar Seven have been wrecking the possibility of setting up a normal coalition government. But that is the way things are going.

[Levin] Incidentally, Yevgeniy Maksimovich, there is a certain divergence to be seen within the Peshawar Seven in their approach to this problem—I mean the problem of forming a coalition government. By no means do all seven groups comprising them regard the problem in quite the same way.

[Primakov] Well, in any case, there is no unity among them on many matters. But that is one level, the internal Afghan level. That is the model of national reconciliation we strongly support. That really is a way out of the

situation. But there is also a quite different level, namely, our relations with the Afghan leadership and the withdrawal of our troops. Here I want to say—and reemphasize—that we are happy that the date, May 15th, which we have mentioned, for the troop withdrawal to begin, is drawing ever closer....

[Shishlin, interrupting] More of a reality.

[Primakov] Not only in the time sense, but becoming more and more of a reality because it is precisely this that events are directly leading up to.

[Levin] By the way, you have already touched on two points from the Soviet-Afghan joint declaration; namely, the point that the policy of national reconciliation makes it possible to settle the situation surrounding Afghanistan and stop the war and the fratricide, and the very important point that the Afghans themselves, and no one else, will determine the final status of their country among other states—where what is at issue is the creation of an independent, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan. But when we talk about a political settlement of the Afghan question and mention that many sides have become embroiled in the conflict—I am referring to the side that has been opposing the Kabul Government—the U.S. role is very prominent indeed. Of special interest, I am sure, in this connection is the recognition in the Soviet-Afghan Joint Declaration of the fact that currently the last obstacles to concluding agreements—this refers to the Geneva agreements—have been removed, and that the president of the Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the willingness of the USSR and the United States to act as guarantors of the agreements reached in Geneva.

[Primakov] Well, there is a certain anticipation of the development of events. They say the agreements will be signed before 14 April. That is what Cordovez has said.

[Shishlin] Well, I think that is a secondary question, and not all that vital.

[Levin] Yes, a day sooner or a day later is neither here nor there.

[Shishlin] It is of no importance. What I do think is important is something else, and that is the international consequences of the Afghan settlement. I think they are very extensive. In the first place, on the global level, the consequences of the Soviet-Afghan declaration and of the possibility of a political settlement of the Afghan conflict will have a favorable effect on the foreign policy positions of the Soviet Union. It will favorably affect both the development of Soviet-U.S. relations and the development of our relations with other countries in general. But even on a level that is, although global, also to some extent regional as well, the consequences of a political settlement of the Afghan problem will also be considerable. Can the Afghan example fail to influence the situation say, in Central America, where the policy of

national reconciliation is also being deployed by the Sandinistas? It is a remarkable thing when people who have been shooting at each other, who have stood on different sides of the political barricades...

[Primakov, interrupting] And not only political.

[Shishlin] Yes, and not only political—sit down at the conference table and agree to lay down their arms. And not just to lay down their arms, but also to join in a single political process, despite all the differences in their political views.

So this second dimension of the influence and effect of the joint Soviet-Afghan declaration and of the prospect of a political settlement of the Afghan problem is extremely significant. Although I understand—and I offer this to you for discussion—that, I think, this course toward national reconciliation is an international phenomenon as such, but not something that can be regarded as a universal prescription for any situation of conflict.

[Primakov] Well, of course. Because in the first place, not all situations of conflict consist of a single national element, which can be reconciled along national lines. Take the Near East, for instance. In the Near East, the situation is different. There, the main forces involved—I am referring to the internal forces—in the conflict are, on the one hand, Israel, which is pursuing an expansionist policy, and has been doing so for many years, while on the other hand there are the Palestinians—the main force on the other side—who have been deprived of their homeland, and certain Arab countries which lost territory as a result of the 1967 war. Here, you cannot speak of national reconciliation. But at the same time, here, too, one should speak of the one way out of the situation, which is political settlement, because there is no military solution. The Near East has shown that very well. For many, many years—since 1948, how long is it—40 years?

[Levin] Forty years.

[Primakov] Forty years have passed. For 40 years, wars have been in progress, and between the major wars, there have been constant skirmishes, constant bloodshed. And all this has achieved nothing—nothing has been achieved. No settlement!

[Shishlin] Yes, although there are ideas regarding a settlement of the Near East problem. One of those ideas, which our listeners are very familiar with, and which the Soviet Union advocates, is the convening of a conference on a Near East settlement—an international conference in which all the interested sides would take part, as well as the permanent members of the Security Council. There are also interim ideas, as I would call them. One of them is the idea that is being expressed by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, who would like some sort of temporary peacemaking between the Palestinians involved in the

uprising and the Israeli authorities—after which we could start looking for some more fundamental solution. But these interim versions, do, of course, call forth the analogy of the well-known Camp David agreements, actually. Camp David did not bring peace to the Near East. It did not solve the problem.

[Primakov] You know, Nikolay Vladimirovich, it seems to me that right here at this roundtable, it will be worth our while just to turn this over a little bit in our minds. First, there are, of course, interim solutions. Interim solutions would be all right, as such, as long as they are interim. But we know the attempt is being made to turn these interim solutions into separate ones. That is just what the United States has been doing all these years. Take what Shultz is now proposing—by the way, he is about to complete the latest of his jaunts, his latest tour of the Near East.

[Levin] He has already completed it.

[Primakov] He has completed it. Well, what is it that Shultz is proposing? Shultz is indeed proposing, practically, by way of some sort of interim measure, an agreement that there should be self-government for the Palestinian population, but not self-government of the territory. Then he thinks that in the future, this could be taken further and lead...

[Shishlin, interrupting] To autonomy.

[Primakov] That is right, to autonomy. But do you understand what this is all about? Let me say right away why this proposal by Shultz puts one on one's guard. First, it reminds one, as you rightly said, of Camp David, where indeed, the agreement between Egypt and Israel was coupled with the possibility of giving the Palestinians self-government in the occupied territories—again, self-government for the population, pseudo self-government, with the presence of the Israeli troops and retention by the Israelis of a great many functions—the main ones, I would say, and so on: the main attributes of state power. At the same time, now as then, Shultz categorically rejects the idea that Palestine should be represented by the Palestinian people, that the PLO should be represented. Yet this, after all, is a matter of principle.

Here is what I want to say to our listeners in this connection for—how long is it now?—since 1967, that is 20 years, just over—Israel has been occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israelis are not altogether lacking in political acumen; that is quite obvious. All this time they have been trying to create an antipode to the PLO, to find quislings among the Palestinians, to separate them out, and to come to an agreement with them. They have failed—for 20 years they have failed. Twenty years! Isn't that indicative? Doesn't that prove that these are really representatives, and that there can be no

others? So it is not just some sort of formality that they are recognized by the Arab countries as the sole representative: They are, in fact, the sole representatives of the Palestinian people.

[Levin] Here we must once again emphasize the fact that the Soviet Union's assessment of the state of affairs in that part of the world is realistic and correct. Our relations with the PLO are stable and strong. We really see in it that force, and understand that this is the only real force. One proof of that is the fact that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is in Moscow at the moment.

[Shishlin] Well, I would like to say a word about something slightly different. Essentially, I see two strongly contrasting approaches to the problems of the Near East. One is the pessimistic approach—that it is a situation of stalemate and has been so for four decades, and that in the end the problem of the Near East evidently is not going to be solved in our time. The second approach is a more active one, shared in some degree by all sides involved in the conflict in one way or another. In this connection, I want to say that, yes, the Soviet Union advocates a just political settlement of the Near East problem. We do not think the aggressor should get the prize, while the victims of aggression have to pay something extra to the aggressor into the bargain for the possibility of establishing some sort of peace in the zone. In other words, our aim is to get a firm guarantee of the security and sovereignty of each of the Near Eastern countries in that zone, including Israel, while doing justice to the rights of the Palestinians themselves.

As for the methods of achieving that aim, one should not give the impression that the Soviet Union's position is absolutely fixed, or that we are closing our eyes to any new tactical approaches if they will lead us in the right direction. We certainly do not want either to humiliate Israel or make Israel pay more for a political settlement than political reason and goodwill dictate. So this second approach—that active steps and active measures are needed, that we have to search for ways of overcoming what is, perhaps, the most acute and the most alarming conflict—this second approach is the only one, in the long run.

[Primakov] Then, of course, it can only be a question of compromise because otherwise it will not be a lasting settlement; it will not be a long peace. Otherwise, it will not be settled. We want a conference, and we are working for that. I agree with you entirely that it cannot be a matter of imposing some set of conditions for a settlement on one or other of the sides involved in the conflict.

[Levin] Let me remind you in this connection that as long ago as 1967, the UN adopted a formula—the well-known Security Council Resolution 242—which does, in effect, specify a way of settling the Near East problem which would be in the interests of all the states,

of the region. That formula—true, it is sometimes subjected to the sort of interpretation that is given to the ABM Treaty by certain circles in the United States—very free and very idiosyncratic—but it does state clearly that the rights of all states and peoples of the region must be taken into account and respected. It is probably—not probably, but certainly—on that basis that the way to a political settlement must be worked out.

Since I have mentioned it, the thought has just come into my head that we often say the United Nations could have, and probably should have, a more active part in solving international problems. But if one compares this resolution with the role, the very active role, which has been played also by the personal representative of the UN secretary general, Cordovez, as mediator at the negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, it can be said that the United Nations has recently even stepped up its contribution to solving general problems, and this is a very pleasing and important aspect. I would like it to develop.

[Primakov] You know, we often say, and rightly so, that we have recently had new approaches formed toward new international problems, and one of these new approaches is a reinterpretation, to some extent, of the role of the United Nations, even of the military mechanism of the United Nations, for example, the way we made proposals in connection with development of the Iran-Iraq conflict. We proposed putting naval forces under the UN flag. We proposed activating the military committee of the Security Council. We proposed—and talked about it—that the United Nations could play a certain role also in the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan. That is to say, we have now done a complete about-face to the United Nations. This is understandable because now there is a need for not only some sort of intergovernmental, but also for supranational, if you like, structures which will be increasingly on display, so to speak, in the future on the level of providing security, and on the level of eliminating the situation whereby there is a slide from regional conflicts toward overall catastrophe. This should all be monitored, including by the United Nations.

[Levin] You know, quite recently, Richard Nixon, the former U.S. President, published a book under the title "1990". In this book, he develops the thought that military-political alliances are maintained thanks to fear and not love. But later Nixon, as a level-headed person, although with extremely conservative views, comes to the conclusion that today, however, the fear of nuclear weapons is stronger than the fear—he is talking, for example, of the Western bloc—of the Soviets, of the Soviet Union. This fear—or rather awareness of the enormous danger inherent in the threat of nuclear war—is, actually, the main and fundamental element in the formation of the new thinking. Regional conflicts, or rather the approach to regional conflicts—what we are now seeing in Afghanistan and surrounding it, and in the Near East—are manifestations of the new thinking. But

lying at basis of precisely this question is the prevention of nuclear war. Indeed, strictly speaking, here there is also a certain link—God forbid that it should develop—but a regional conflict can always get out of control and cease being regional. This is where the danger lies.

[Shishlin] Viktor Nikolayevich, I think that perhaps even though it is right to arrange and define some priorities here, it may still perhaps be more accurate to say that all these problems are inseparable.

[Levin] Of course, I agree.

[Shishlin] Absolutely inseparable, because, if we talking about the survival of humanity, then, like it or not, it has to include taking effective measures not only to wind down the arms race but also to overcome existing explosive situations. It applies equally as well to a problem such as the increasing gulf between the developed and developing states. That is one of the most worrying problems of the contemporary world, and it cannot be put off. It is time to solve it now, and by the joint efforts of both the socialist and of the capitalist states, with an active part being played, of course, by the developing countries themselves.

[Levin] It is precisely the combination of efforts that I should like to talk about now. Just look: Last week in Moscow, there was a delegation from the Socialist International headed by Willy Brandt, the chairman of the Socintern, and honorary chairman of the SPD [Social Democratic Party]. After that there was a delegation from the Italian Parliament, which was headed by Piccoli, president of the Christian Democratic International. I think that both Brandt and Piccoli in this role are especially interesting interlocutors, as leaders of very big and unquestionably influential political organizations operating in many states of the world. To find points of contiguity with them, to find some contacts with them to solve problems which are already urgent—there are probably problems which we cannot solve today; ideological differences of ours with the Socintern remain sharp, and will probably remain so—but there is an understanding of the need to combine efforts, efforts to solve both global and regional problems, and this aspect, of course, deserves very great attention, and this reflects indeed the new thinking in action.

[Shishlin] You, know, Viktor Nikolayevich, one can put it this way: There is no such thing as a Soviet way of tackling international problems. Neither is there an American way of tackling the existing problems. Nor is there even, if you wish, a European or Chinese or Japanese way of tackling international problems. International efforts are need to resolve international problems. The actual internationalization of these problems, and an attempt to approach these problems from the global point of view with a clear understanding that cooperation and joined efforts are necessary—this is indeed a promising approach. In this respect, the development of an international dialogue in all areas is, of

course, the most promising policy which clearly meets the demands of the new political thinking, corresponding to those realities with which we live.

[Primakov] I would like here to get back to the middle of our conversation when Nikolay Vladimirovich very correctly put the matter this way. He referred us to the need to examine possible outcomes of settling the Afghan problem. He is right because this will all the time affect the international situation favorably as a long-playing factor, as it were. But I would like to focus our attention at the moment on the fact that this is conducive, it seems to me, among other things to the success of the future summit meeting. In any event, it ought to help.

[Levin] It creates a more favorable atmosphere.

[Primakov] If our troops start being pulled out and so on, this must favor the success of the summit meeting. We pin great hopes on this meeting. We, of course, want another treaty to be signed, if possible, during this meeting, on the 50-percent reduction of strategic offensive forces, with observance naturally of the ABM Treaty. The reason why I have started talking about this today, although we have not touched on this subject today, is that the main thing for us at present is, of course, to reduce weapons—not by setting things in opposition but by linking everything together into a single whole.

[Levin] That brings us to the end of our program. Thank you for your attention, comrades. All the best. Goodbye.

United States & Canada

Tomahawk Missile Test Fired Off California

LD101125 Moscow TASS in English 1116 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 10 TASS—The United States has conducted the test firing of a Tomahawk missile with a MIRVed warhead. The missile was launched from a ship off California, AP news agency reported. After flying over a 500-mile distance, it reached a test range located 125 miles north of Los Angeles. The missile hit three targets by three dummy warheads and itself struck the fourth target.

The news agency reports, quoting officials, that this weapons system will be ready for deployment aboard U.S. Navy ships as early as in the autumn of this year.

Reagan Makes Appeal to Senate on INF Treaty

LD092204 Moscow TASS in English 2200
GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 9 TASS—President Reagan called on U.S. Senate to approve the Soviet-American Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles without any amendments. This is a good treaty strengthening security of the USA and U.S. allies, pointed out the President during a regular radio address to the nation.

The treaty, noted Ronald Reagan, was signed during his Washington summit meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. For the first time the treaty eliminates a whole class of Soviet and U.S. missiles. It provides for the most comprehensive regime of verification in the history of arms control. A decision on it is to be taken by the U.S. Senate which should give a consent to its ratification. The President expressed the hope that the Senate proper would quickly consider the treaty. Ronald Reagan called on all senators to give counsel and consent without reservations.

Giving its due to the historic agreement on elimination of a whole class of weapons, Reagan advocated at the same time his old thesis that talks with the Soviet Union could be allegedly conducted only from strength. Thus, summing up the merits of the INF agreement, he said that the treaty showed what could be reached when the USA conducted talks from strength.

Bogachev on Development of Biological Weapons

LD091249 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow 9 Apr (TASS)—TASS military observer Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Sixteen years ago, on 10 April 1972, in Moscow, Washington, and London, a convention was signed on banning the development, production, and accumulation of

stocks of bacteriological (biological) and toxic weapons and on their destruction. The treaty reflected the wish of the majority of people on our planet to start liquidating all means of mass destruction.

Individual cases of the use of bacteria for military purposes are recorded in history. In the 17th century, American colonists gave "gifts" of bed linen infected with smallpox to Indian tribes that stood in the way of their expansion westward. During World War II, Japanese militarists tested bacteriological weapons on U.S. and Chinese prisoners of war. They tried to spread "on a small scale" epidemics of plague and cholera in Chinese cities. There are also data on other similar "experiments."

Bacteriological weapons are not only one of the most cruel and perfidious means of waging war, they are the most unpredictable means of mass destruction. The defeating effect depends on a number of natural factors out of people's control—wind, humidity, air temperature, and so on. Having let the bacteriological genie out of the bottle, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to limit its effect to any specific region of combat action or only to the enemy's manpower, and to ensure the necessary level of safety for one's own troops or civilian population.

The organisms producing frightening diseases might spread virtually out of control. This makes the use of bacteriological weapons in warfare an extremely risky undertaking. Even U.S. military leaders have admitted in the past that in bacteriological warfare the heaviest losses could be sustained by the side unleashing it.

Nevertheless, observance of the letter and spirit of the treaty on banning bacteriological weapons has now been threatened. Western specialists claim that over the past 5 years there has been a technological breakthrough in methods of producing the means for waging bacteriological warfare and that the use of bacteria, viruses, and toxins may secure military advantages. According to press reports, the United States, for example, has mastered the technology for speedy production of pathogenic viruses.

The fact is that the convention on banning bacteriological weapons permits the production of small quantities of bacteriological weapons in order to study methods of defense against bacteria, viruses, and toxins. There are grounds to think that the United States has plainly been abusing this provision of the treaty and is preparing to produce bacteria on scales exceeding the requirements of defense against spontaneously arising epidemics.

In the period from 1983 to 1987, the Pentagon more than quadrupled its expenditure on "expanded research in the field of bacteriological warfare" from \$15 million to \$70 million. This causes concern.

The Soviet Union is strictly observing more than just the letter of the convention and has at its disposal no bacteriological (biological) agents or toxins, equipment, or means of delivery that are prohibited by the agreement. The USSR is indeed in favor of strengthening the conditions of compliance with the convention and of excluding the very possibility of bacteriological warfare, which may bring mankind unprecedented calamities.

Shultz Mideast Trip Nets 'Insignificant' Results
LD081942 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—TASS commentator Gri-goriy Vasiliyev writes:

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz concluded another tour of the Middle East, his third this year. It took him to Israel, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. George Shultz held talks with the leaders of those countries. The so-called U.S. Middle Eastern initiative was the subject of the talks. Washington hastened to come out with the initiative when mass anti-Israeli protests of Palestinian Arabs in occupied areas assumed the (?scope) of a nation-wide uprising which Israel, despite brutal reprisals proved unable to suppress.

The pro-Israeli nature of the policy of the U.S. Administration was revealed again during the tour. The U.S. secretary of state made it plain that complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories and creation of an independent Palestinian state are out of the question. The stand with regard to the Palestine Liberation Organisation was reaffirmed. The United States refuses to have any contacts with the PLO. The pronouncements by the U.S. secretary of state were pro-Israeli to such an extent as to be viewed as insulting, for instance, in Amman. The Jordanian authorities cancelled Shultz's televised appearance and a spokesman for the television said that the U.S. secretary of state was completely on Israel's side.

The secretary of state himself had to admit that the results of his tour were insignificant. Nevertheless he said he was not going to withdraw the initiative advanced. This actually means that the United States intends to continue declaring from the stand ignoring the key provisions of the Middle Eastern settlement. As to Arab countries, they reaffirmed their support for the idea of convening an authoritative international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, and also of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Developments show that in this situation such an international forum is the only way leading to truly durable and fair peace in the region.

Shultz Mideast Mission Ends in 'Failure'
LD091542 Moscow TASS in English 1415 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 9 TASS—The Middle East trip made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the

hope of breathing life into the so-called "New American Middle East peace plan" has ended in failure.

U.S. secretary of state returned to Washington last night after a tour of Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. In none of those countries did Shultz manage to win unreserved support for the new American plan.

The U.S. present initiative which has been dubbed the 'Shultz Plan' envisages the introduction of an extremely curtailed regime of autonomy for the Palestinian population in the Israel-occupied territories and the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference which will not only lack any decision-making powers but is intended to be held without the participation of the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—the PLO.

In other words, it is a question of organizing under the guise of such a conference yet another round of separate talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours and barring the legitimate Palestinian representatives from discussing their own future and virtually excluding the question of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

It is significant that the U.S. secretary of state, in a talk with journalists accompanying him aboard the plane, had to admit that he measured headway only "in inches, not in feet, yards, miles".

PRAVDA Cites U.S. Reaction to Afghan Moves
PM110953 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Second Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "Correct Path"]

[Text] Washington, 8 Apr—The joint Soviet-Afghan statement and M.S. Gorbachev's television speech have drawn the most intent attention here from the mass media and politicians. The theme of all the commentaries and speeches is the acknowledgement that the reports from the USSR are extremely important.

"The Soviet leader stated that the last political obstacles have been overcome and Soviet troops will soon return home from Afghanistan," ABC-TV reported. "He confirmed his determination to implement this if the Geneva talks on Afghanistan can be rapidly completed." "The Soviets," the correspondent continued, "have long been telling the world that they would like to begin the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan in mid-May. M.S. Gorbachev has pledged in today's statement to bring his men home."

"The withdrawal of Soviet troops may be implemented by the time President Reagan arrives in Moscow. This means that the Americans will not be able to use the Afghanistan problem against the Soviets at the summit," CBS says in response.

The first comments on M.S. Gorbachev's statement from official Washington sound fairly optimistic, although there are reservations. People there are calling it "a step forward." At his ranch in California, President Reagan "expressed cautious optimism," according to his aides. Baker, White House chief of staff, said: "We must study this communique carefully. It is, possibly, a step forward, and it is likely it may lead to the resolution of the problem."

U.S. 'Secret Operations' Abroad Noted

*LD081452 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0830 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[Lidiya Podolnaya commentary]

[Text] The House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress is continuing to discuss a draft bill, already adopted by the Senate, requiring the administration to inform the legislators provisionally, and not later than 48 hours, of secret operations being undertaken abroad. However, without waiting for the results of the voting, the President has stated that he will impose a veto on the draft bill. Lidiya Podolnaya, an international affairs journalist is at the microphone:

[Podolnaya] What is the President worried about? After all, the law already in force now obliges him to inform of actions to be taken outside the country. To a large extent it is only a matter of making the time limit for informing more precise: Not later than 48 hours. However, Reagan sees this as an encroachment on the limits of the rights of the administration. One can only guess at the reason for such an abnormal reaction. Most probably it lies in the scandalous disclosures of Irangate. At that time Congress remained totally uninformed concerning illegal arms supplies to Iran for 10 whole months. So far as one can judge, the President does not want to share secrets with the legislators in the future either. He needs full freedom of action in order to continue secret operations to destabilize any regimes Washington finds to be inconvenient.

It would be naive to suppose that Congress is against such a policy. On the contrary, it is in favor. After all, it was only the scandalous disclosures of the Iran-contra deal which made the congressmen publicly indignant, but that was an enforced measure under public pressure. Even in the document on the results of the investigation into the affair, only individual persons are blamed, and not at all the system, under which such things were possible. And now, when the Iran-contra case is not yet put away in the archives, with a court case ahead, there are over 20 secret operations being carried out abroad by the United States. These figures come from the U.S. press, and prime attention is going to Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, and, as became known quite recently, Panama.

Meanwhile, Congress keeps silent. What is more, in the proposed draft bill the legislators are not in any way placing in doubt the right of the White House and the CIA to interfere in the affairs of other countries, overthrow governments, make short work of politicians, and support counterrevolutionary groupings. In other words, both the administration and the Congress want the same thing.

How then should the draft bill be viewed? As an attempt to avoid political scandals, but not the operation itself. Apart from that, the draft bill is one of the results of the long rivalry between them for control of the special services, a rivalry intensified by the election campaign. The Democrats, who are in the majority in the Congress, on the wave of Irangate disclosures, want to seem in the eyes of Americans the proponents of restricting the activity of the CIA, and to win at the elections. For their part the Republicans are dreaming of finally cleansing themselves of the Irangate dirt, and remaining in power.

Meanwhile, both these parties need the special services, and primarily the CIA, in their present guise, when the intelligence industry has become a factor which determines to a large extent U.S. foreign policy.

Soviet-U.S. Seminar on Ties Held in Tallinn

*PM111025 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] Concern for improving Soviet-U.S. relations and for the further normalization of the international situation imbued the speeches delivered by the participants in the fourth Soviet-U.S. seminar on questions of Soviet-U.S. relations and the settlement of regional conflicts under way in Tallinn. It has been organized by the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the "USSR-United States" association, the Estonian Friendship Society, and the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers).

China

Further Reportage on National People's Congress

NPC Views State Enterprises

*LD081649 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1030 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[Text] The seventh session of the Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] is continuing in China. Among the questions on the agenda, special attention is being given to a draft bill on state industrial enterprises. Our special correspondent, Vladimir Kulikov, reports from Beijing:

[Kulikov] There are currently 90,000 enterprises under national ownership in China, providing 70 percent of the gross industrial output of the country. In a report at the

NPC, Comrade Li Peng, acting premier of the PRC State Council, called restructuring at state-owned enterprises the central link in the whole economic system. The draft bill is based on the principle of separating the right of ownership from the right of management. It means that a state-owned enterprise has the legal guarantee of independent management and self-recouping in the full sense of those concepts.

The draft bill envisages that the director of an enterprise will play the main part, while the party organization is given a supervisory role. This provision is of fundamental importance. The new role for the party organizations at enterprises envisaged in the draft bill, stressed (Sun Manzhun), responds to the spirit of the 13th Congress of the Communist Party of China and the provisions of the country's constitution. More and more new proposals are continuing at the NPC session, which is continuing.

Judicial Appointments Noted

LD091322 Moscow TASS in English 0753 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 9 TASS—Ren Jianxin was elected president of the Supreme People's Court of China at today's plenary meeting of the first session of the Seventh National People's Congress. Liu Fuzhi was elected procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

Ren Jianxin, 62, was vice-president of the Supreme People's Court.

Liu Fuzhi, 71, was deputy secretary of the Political and Judicial Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Li Peng Confirmed as Premier

LD090928 Moscow TASS in English 0843 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 9 TASS—Li Peng, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, was appointed premier of the State Council of China at the first session of the Seventh National People's Congress in Beijing today.

Li Peng was born in 1928. Member of the Communist Party since 1945, he was educated at the Moscow Energy Institute. At last year's 12th Congress of the Communist Party he was elected into the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. After Zhao Ziyang was elected general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, he was appointed acting premier of the State Council.

Central Military Commission

LD090934 Moscow TASS in English 0844 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 9 TASS—Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and China's President Yang Shangkun were elected vice chairmen of the Central Military Commission at the plenary meeting of the first session of the Seventh National People's Congress today.

Deng Xiaoping was elected chairman of the Central Military Commission at the plenary meeting on Friday.

Other members of the commission, elected today, include Hong Xuezhi, Liu Huaqing, Qin Jiwei, Chi Haotian, Yang Baibing, Chuo Nam Qi.

Agricultural Successes Discussed

LD091836 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0930 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] The session of the all-Chinese National People's Congress [NPC] is continuing its work in China. Vladimir Kulikov, our correspondent, reports from Beijing:

One of the peculiarities of the session in progress in Beijing is the fact that broad access to the discussions being conducted by the NPC deputies on issues which are concerning them is being made available to journalists. This procedure is very simple and democratic. The topics of the individual working meetings of the session are displayed each day in the session's press center, and journalists, having selected the meeting which interests them, have to fill in a simple document giving them the right to attend the discussion.

Particular interest among journalists has been attracted by the discussion of agricultural issues, raised by deputies from Sichuan province. This interest is explained by several causes. Primarily, Sichuan is one of the most densely populated provinces of China—100 million people, give or take a few, live there. Not even every major state in the world can boast such a number of citizens. Secondly, the successes of the toilers of this province are well known in China: Sichuan is called the country's bread basket. Also, one ought probably to say a number of the present Chinese leaders are linked with this province, one way or another: Deng Xiaoping was born here; Sichuan is the homeland of Comrade Li Peng, acting premier of the State Council; and Zhao Ziyang, the present general secretary, worked there for many years.

How does the province look today? Family contracting, where payment for work depends totally on its results, has been introduced everywhere here. A diversified economy is developing actively. Development of the agricultural sector has set off along the path of specializing production—this is yielding economic benefits. It is sufficient to say that last year the farmers of Sichuan

not only fully satisfied their own population's demand for foodstuffs, but also presented the state with large quantities of grain, butter and pork.

Li Xiannian To Head CPPCC

LD100836 Moscow TASS in English 0802 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing April 10 TASS—Li Xiannian, well-known Chinese party leader and statesman, former president of the People's Republic of China, was elected chairman of the Seventh National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). Prior to him, this post was held by Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, and also Deng Incho, veteran of the Chinese Revolution, widow of Zhou Enlai.

The first session of the Seventh CPPCC also elected today 28 vice-chairmen of the CPPCC National Committee, representing various quarters of the country's public. Among them are Yang Minfu, member of the Secretariat of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee, head of a department of the United Front of the CCP Central Committee, Fang Yi and Gu Mu, members of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Ismail Amat, chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of Nationalities, Hu Sheng, president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Kang Keqing, chairman of the Chinese Women's Federation, Ba Qin, chairman of the Chinese Writers' Union, and Qian Xuesan, a famed Chinese physicist.

Trade Delegation Visits Khabarovsk, Holds Talks

LD081545 Moscow TASS in English 1234 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Khabarovsk April 8 TASS—Foreign trade and cooperative organizations of Khabarovsk intend to give greater scope to exchanges of goods with partners from the PRC. Mutual interest in this is being reaffirmed by week-long talks which began here today with a delegation of the Shenyang Company for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

The leader of the Chinese delegation, Li Fangshen, chairman of the company's board, has told a TASS correspondent that this is their first experience in cooperation with Soviet partners.

"Our geographic proximity will promote the establishment of direct goods exchanges", he pointed out. The setting up of joint shops to sell Soviet goods in the PRC and of Chinese ones in the Soviet Union can be, in his view, one of forms of such cooperation.

"We are also planning to set up scientific and technological exchanges", Li Fangshen said.

The Khabarovsk territory actively develops contacts with the PRC in border trade. Goods turnover between the contiguous areas of the two countries trebled over the past year.

Soviet Textile Trade Company Chief Interviewed

OW081041 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Report on interview with Matveyev, deputy general manager of the All-Soviet Foreign Trade Company, by station observer Dmitriyev; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Since ancient times, China has had a Silk Road to trade with Western countries. This year, this road has a new lease on life. Airplanes, trains, and trucks with cargo are moving toward China's neighboring countries. Naturally, the export products today are different from those in the past. However, silk and cotton cloth remain the main export products from China. These goods are also being shipped to the Soviet Union.

Matveyev, deputy general manager of the All-Soviet Foreign Trade Company, has pointed out the following: China is the traditional trade partner of the Soviet Union. He added: We mainly cooperate with two trade partners in China—the China National Textiles Import and Export Corporation and the China National Silk Import and Export Corporation. We buy cotton and silk cloth, towels, high-quality woolen textiles, synthetic silk cloth, rayon cloth, cotton prints, poplin, corduroy, velvet, and other textile products readily marketable in our country. The amazing varieties, the pleasing styles of minority nationalities, and the brilliant colors and the extraordinary patterns of the textile products have aroused great interest among Soviet customers. To meet their needs, we plan to import more textile products from China. Not long ago, we signed an agreement with China to supply the Soviet Union with 4 million meters of silk cloth, 25 million towels, nearly 300,000 woolen blankets, 10 million meters of cotton cloth, certain types of raw materials, and other textile products, totaling R100 million in value. This is a considerably large contract. [passage omitted]

Comrade Matveyev stated: We are purchasing textile products from China on the basis of mutual benefits and equality. China purchases the textile equipment and raw materials from the Soviet Union. For example, since last year we have been providing China with the new shuttleless looms manufactured by the Cheboksary Machine-Building Plant. Being highly efficient, they are able to greatly reduce labor intensity in manufacturing textile products. All this is conducive to modernizing China's textile industry. [passage omitted]

Comrade Matveyev noted: In the early fifties, the Soviet Union helped China to build a number of textile mills. They are still operating today and turning out high-quality products. However, many years have passed, and they are now outmoded. We have signed a contract to

help China rebuild the Harbin Flax Textile Mill. Efforts are being made to help China improve the production facilities at the flax textile mills in Jiamusi, Suihua, and Chaozhou. [passage omitted]

Comrade Matveyev asserted: The prospects for developing USSR-China trade in this respect are excellent. For example, we are waiting for our Chinese trade partner to provide us with samples of their new products in the next 2 to 3 months so that we may choose and sign new contracts. China will continue to supply our country with its textile products. On the other hand, it will buy from the Soviet Union the necessary goods which China needs for developing its national economy, including equipment for its textile industry.

Ivanov Commentary Explores Trade Prospects

*OW101415 Moscow International Service
in Mandarin 0300 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[Ivanov commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Zheng Tuobin, Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, said during a meeting with deputies to the Seventh NPC session that China's economic relations and trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries will develop rapidly. The minister affirmed that the volume of regional and border trade will be the first to increase. The following is a commentary by Ivanov, an observer of this station:

As early as the fifties, the Soviet Union and China established [words indistinct] on the basis of mutual benefit and equality. At present, it seems that this kind of cooperation is again being publicized. The optimism expressed by the Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade regarding future cooperation is based on the reality of bilateral trade volume and the level of border trade.

A memorandum on goods exchange and payments between the Soviet Union and China for 1988 was signed in Beijing early this year. According to the document, the trade volume between the two countries will increase by one-third as compared with last year. Development of border trade between the two countries in the last few years is as follows: The total volume of border trade in 1984 was a little over R15.5 million. The volume increased to R30 million in 1986 and R50 million in 1987.

During the Soviet-Chinese talks in Beijing in January this year, the two sides finalized the texts of some agreements on direct ties between some Soviet regions and some Chinese provinces and cities. The Soviet regions include the RSFSR; oblasts, cities, and border districts in central Asia; and the Kazakh SSR.

As Minister Zheng Tuobin said, China's provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, and other cities may establish economic and trade ties not only with the

Soviet Union, but also with Mongolia, Korea, and other European socialist countries. China plans to develop compensatory trade and joint ventures actively and rapidly, and to export labor. Socialist countries have something in common in the main aspects of their economic development. They can meet each other's needs in terms of resources, technology, and economy. This gives us great hope in more effectively developing the cooperation between the Soviet Union and China and between China and other socialist countries.

Northeast Asia

Missile Destroyer Spotted Near Japan

*OW100933 Tokyo KYODO in English 0918 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Tokyo, April 10 KYODO—A Soviet Navy missile destroyer in the newest Sovremenny class was found moving north in the East China Sea Sunday by a Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) patrol plane, MSDF officials said. The Soviet Navy has been building up its Pacific fleet with these new vessels in recent years, the officials said. Such a destroyer was deployed in Europe in November 1986 and another to the Far East last December, they said. They said the destroyer, discovered in waters some 110 kilometers southwest of Iriomote Island, Okinawa, Sunday may be the third deployed to the Pacific Fleet. They believe the destroyer was heading for Vladivostok, the fleet's base port.

Sentencing for Two Japanese Fisherman Reported

*LD091908 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Nakhodka April 9 TASS—Two Japanese nationals have been convicted of illegal crab catching operations in the Soviet economic zone in the Pacific at a trial which ended here today.

It followed the seizure by Soviet Frontier Guard boats of two Japanese schooners, Shinre Maru 5 and Shinwa Maru 15, in the middle of last January off the coast of the maritime territory in the south of the Soviet Far East.

Dozens of centers of illegally caught crabs were found aboard each of the craft.

Representatives of the firms owning the two schooners pleaded fully guilty during the investigation and at the trial.

It was proved, in particular, that Shinre Maru 5 had repeatedly poached in Soviet territorial waters before and thus caused significant damage to the economy of the Soviet Far Eastern Region.

In accordance with Article 167 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, the Nakhodka city court sentenced the schooner's manager of catching operations, Nagasaki Eshitaka, to a fine along with the confiscation of the crab catching boat and catching gear.

In its ruling on the second defendant, crab catching operations manager Funakoshi Keiji, the court, guided by humane principles, took into account the difficult circumstances of his family and his sincere repentance and sentenced him to six months in prison.

Uno Visit To Northern Islands Criticized
OW081317 Moscow in Japanese to Japan
1200 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Excerpts] According to the KYODO news service, Japanese Foreign Minister Uno is scheduled to leave on an inspection tour of the four northern islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and Etorofu, which are part of Soviet territory, for 3 days—16 through 18 April. In this connection, station commentator Dmitriyev has the following to say:

The Japanese ruling circles sponsor events by hook and by crook and, as a result, aggravate relations with their neighboring countries. Each time high-ranking government officials visit the Yasukuni Shrine, where war criminals are enshrined, for example, Sino-Japanese relations become more tense. The inspection tour of the Kurile Islands is no exception. Using the trip as a lever, the Japanese Government is instigating a territorial demand campaign against the Soviet Union and is thus making the atmosphere worse between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Japanese leaders never mention Japanese-Soviet relations without first citing the difference of opinion over the so-called territorial issue. However, there are quite a few aspects of Japanese-Soviet relations in which ordinary Japanese show a considerable degree of interest and good sense. The fisheries issue and reciprocal economic exchanges are good examples. As everyone knows, the question of visits to Japanese graves on the Soviet territory has been resolved. Progress in other sectors should be fully possible unless the Japanese side puts a difference of opinion to the fore.

Regrettably, in light of Foreign Minister Uno's northern inspection tour plan which was recently disclosed, the Japanese Government is likely to adhere to its conventional position to the bitter end. It is only recently that Takatori, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, visited Nosappu Cape.

The Soviet Union has sufficient grounds to declare under international law that the four islands at issue are its territory. [passage omitted]

Official tours of the Kurile Islands are meant to press for a review of the borders set after the war. By such tours the Japanese Government tries to portray Japan a little more as a war victim, not as an aggressor as history indicates. Millions of lives in Asian countries were lost due to its aggression. Therefore, is it not safe to say that Japanese conservative forces bring up the Northern Territories issue to make the people forget about history and thus spread nationalist trends? Such nationalist trends have already found expression in the form of violence committed by rightist extremists in front of the Soviet Embassy in Japan. The Soviet people regard such acts as revanchism wherever they may be committed. If you recall that the Soviet Union lost 20 million lives in World War II, you will understand how the Soviets feel about the embassy incident. As voices grow ever louder to raise territorial demands to the Soviet Union, Japan's defense spending has increased by an unprecedented margin. In Soviet eyes, Japan is on its way to becoming a military power again.

Some Japanese publishing houses close to the Defense Agency have already put out in book form plans to retake the Northern Territories by force. We hope that those who plan such campaigns will carefully ponder what outcome this would have not only for Japanese-Soviet relations, but also for Japan's future.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Rogachev Completes Talks in Malaysia

Comments on Philippine Bases
LD091358 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1500 GMT 8 Apr 88

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Vitaliy Ilashenko]

[Text] [Ilyashenko] A few days ago I talked to Rogachev, USSR Deputy minister of foreign affairs, who has visited the Philippines and a number of other countries in Southeast Asia. Igor Alekseyevich, it is known that the Government of the Philippines, the Aquino government, is in favor of its country having a nuclear-free status. This is a problem that is being discussed in their Senate quite actively.

[Rogachev] Principles that do not permit the country to become a nuclear power are written down in their Constitution.

[Ilyashenko] Well, there you are. Naturally this presupposes that the Philippines will be part of this nuclear-free zone. At the same time, however, it is known that U.S.-Philippine talks are taking place about the U.S. bases of Clark Field and Subic Bay and a number of other military facilities. How can all of this be tied together, and what is the position of the Philippine Government, for clearly this was something you touched

upon in some way in your conversations with Manglapus, the secretary of foreign affairs, and other leaders, if it wasn't actually a subject for discussion.

[Rogachev] As soon as I arrived in Manila, one of the first questions that was put to me—there were many journalists at the airport—was the question of what is the Soviet Union's attitude toward the forthcoming U.S.-Philippine talks on the fate of the U.S. military bases in that country. You understand, of course, that we have no right to interfere in the relations between the Philippines and anyone: That is our principle, the principle of our foreign policy, noninterference in internal affairs. But, of course, I was able and was obliged to mention the Soviet Union's attitude to the existence of military bases on other people's territories, and that I did do.

One of the strongest impressions that I brought back from my visit to the Philippines was the very strong anti-bases and antinuclear movement literally at every level of the population of that country. And it seems to me that this is a new manifestation that is characteristic not just of life in the Philippines, but of a whole number of other countries in the region. One could feel this every day, every hour, demonstrated in very many ways. The Philippine Government is currently displaying legitimate concern over safeguarding the national interests of its country. I had occasion to read and to hear a great deal when I was in Manila about the fact that the bases, the enormous complex of installations that the United States has on the territory of the Philippines, that the task these bases have first and foremost is to secure the global strategic interests of the United States, and certainly not the national interests of the Philippines.

[Ilyashenko] This is what was said by Manglapus, the secretary of foreign affairs.

[Rogachev] This has been said several times by Manglapus, the secretary of foreign affairs, whom I had occasion to meet, and who has also produced a very deep impression by the way in which he is conducting the talks. I want to say that this position of the Soviet Union gives rise to understanding and appreciation among very many people in the Philippines. No doubt it would not be out of place here to say that not so long ago, only a few years ago, we had fairly rare contacts with this country, political and economic contacts especially. Now, however, interest in our country has grown sharply and we felt this during our meeting with Mrs Aquino, the country's president, with senators, ministers, and, as I have already said, with Manglapus, the secretary of foreign affairs.

We signed an intergovernmental protocol with the Filipinos on political consultations. The day after the signing I read in the newspapers that this was a breakthrough in Soviet-Philippine relations. Again—a few years ago we could not even have imagined that we could go so far as to sign such a document. That was said in an editorial in one Philippine newspaper.

[Ilyashenko] I wonder how the Americans view this: No doubt one must expect them to show some concern over the development of such good relations with that country, in so far as they have settled in so firmly there?

[Rogachev] Of course we do hear accusations that the Soviet Union is intensifying its penetration, that Soviet ships will make their appearance in the wake of the diplomats. It has also been said that if the U.S. military bases in the Philippines are eliminated—if one assumes that in theory—then the vacuum will immediately be filled by the Soviet Union. When I was asked about this at a press conference I gave an assurance that the policy of the CPSU, the policy of Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, pursues completely opposite aims. We have no intention of opening any military bases.

[Ilyashenko] I would like to add the following to what has been said. Today the U.S. delegation boycotted a regular meeting as a mark of protest against the proposal of the Philippine Government that the text of the existing base agreement be changed. The Philippines are insisting that the United States ask the government of the country for permission to deploy missile weapons and to hold maneuvers on its bases. A perfectly reasonable demand, but the U.S. delegation objects to it categorically. We shall have to see how the talks proceed. They are to last for 3 months.

Calls on Foreign Minister

BK071348 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The visiting Soviet deputy foreign minister, Igor Rogachev, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar at the Foreign Ministry in Kuala Lumpur today. They discussed various bilateral matters.

Responding to his invitation, Datuk Abu Hassan said Malaysia is interested in sending trainees to learn space technology in the Soviet Union.

Mr Rogachev also met with Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan. Malaysia has requested that the Soviet Union support Malaysia's bid for a seat at the United Nations. The USSR agrees in principle to Malaysia's request.

News Conference on Talks

LD091237 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1138 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 9 Apr (TASS)—The communality of stands of the USSR and Malaysia on the issues of defusing international tension, preventing nuclear war, and eliminating the remainders of colonialism and racism serves as a good basis for further expanding cooperation between the two countries in the international arena. This was stressed here at today's news conference

held by Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who came to the Malaysian capital to conduct political consultations with leading officials from the Malaysian Foreign Ministry.

In the course of talks with the Malaysian side, he emphasized, a broad range of international problems of mutual interest and issues of the future development of bilateral relations were discussed. The Soviet Union attaches great importance to maintaining stable relations with Malaysia and deepening the bilateral political dialogue that acquired new impetus following Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad's official visit to the USSR in 1987 and his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The consultations reconfirmed the mutual aim of expanding links in the political, trade and economic, cultural, and scientific areas, and also in sports.

The Soviet representative acquainted journalists with the results of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in Tashkent, with improvements in the process of the Afghan settlement, and with Soviet efforts toward unblocking regional conflicts, including that around Cambodia. The deputy minister reported that the USSR values positively the efforts of the regional group ASEAN aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality, as well as a nuclear-free area.

"I am very satisfied with the results of the political consultations. They were intensive, useful, and held in a friendly atmosphere," Igor Rogachev concluded.

Received by Prime Minister

LD091409 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur April 9 TASS—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad today received Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, here on a working visit, and had a friendly conversation with him.

Both sides stressed great significance of continuing implementing agreements, reached during last year's meeting in Moscow between Mahathir bin Mohamad and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

The head of the Malaysian Government was briefed on progress in the work on the Soviet-U.S. treaty on a 50 per cent cut in strategic offensive weapons, on Soviet efforts to diffuse regional conflict situations. Mahathir bin Mohamad listened with great attention to the report on the results of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Afghan President Najibullah in Tashkent and developments in the process of Afghan settlement, which pave the way for signing the agreed documents on this issue in the next few days.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the Soviet-U.S. talks on strategic offensive weapons would lead to signing of the relevant agreement. He expressed the wish that that process should not stall and should cover other types of modern weapons.

Malaysia notes with satisfaction that the settlement of the Afghan problem is consistent with what has been said in Mikhail Gorbachev's message on the issue he received earlier. Malaysia is interested in the earliest settlement of this problem.

Both sides agreed that the settlement around Afghanistan would set a good example for tackling conflict situations elsewhere in the world and around Kampuchea in the first place.

When reviewing Soviet-Malaysian cooperation, both sides expressed some practical considerations which make it possible to use more fully the existing possibilities in this area.

Departs for Indonesia

LD100829 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0658 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 10 Apr (TASS)—Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, has ended his visit to Malaysia. Bilateral political consultations, which had been agreed on during Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's official visit to Moscow last summer, took place in Kuala Lumpur. The Soviet representative was received by and had friendly conversations with the head of the Malaysian Government and with Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar, and delivered a paper at the local institute of international and strategic studies. In the course of conversations, consultations, and meetings, they touched on mutually interesting international problems and issues of further expanding bilateral relations in various spheres. Today the USSR deputy foreign minister left for Indonesia.

Leads Delegation to ESCAP Session

LD111032 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0855 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Jakarta, 11 Apr (TASS)—Today the annual session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has started here. Some 800 representatives from more than 40 countries in the region are taking part in its work. The Soviet delegation is headed by I.A. Rogachev, deputy minister of foreign affairs.

As the executive secretary of ESCAP, Shah A. Kibria announced that those attending the session will discuss questions of international and regional trade, the development of natural resources, and agriculture. The question of restructuring the economy of many of the ESCAP member-countries, taking into account the requirements of the future, will be a subject of discussion. At the

session which will last until 20 April, problems of employment and the development of transport and telecommunications will also be examined, and the working out of an integrated plan for the utilization of manpower resources will be completed.

The ESCAP session was opened with a speech by Indonesian President Suharto.

Manila Embassy Deplores U.S. Envoy's Statement
*LD091549 Moscow TASS in English 1432 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Manila, April 9 TASS—At the regular briefing here today, a spokesman of the Soviet Embassy in the Philippines commented on a statement by the U.S. ambassador in Manila, Nicholas Platt, who alleged that the Soviet Union posed a military threat to the Philippines and other countries of the region. The American ambassador made the statement at the opening of the Philippine-U.S. talks on American bases.

The Soviet spokesman said that the statement, which ran counter to the spirit of the time and was a rehash of the cold war rhetorics, was particularly deplorable since it came from an official spokesman of the government, which was yet to reply to Soviet peace initiatives on military detente in the region.

Local and foreign journalists were briefed on the meeting in Tashkent between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and Afghan President Najibullah and the Soviet-Afghan talks. The correspondents received with much interest the news that the Soviet Union had set up a national committee on Asian-Pacific economic cooperation.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on PLO's Arafat Talks in Moscow

Meets With Soviet Public
*LD081641 Moscow TASS in English 1452 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, now on a brief working visit here at the Soviet Government's invitation, had a meeting today with representatives of the Soviet public at the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

The situation in Israeli-occupied Arab territories, where the uprising of the Palestinian population continues, was discussed.

The chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Mikhail Kapitsa stressed the Soviet people's solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian Arabs for their lawful inalienable rights.

Meets With Dobrynin

*PM111033 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Packed Program"]

[Text] A.F. Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, met 8 April with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

There followed a detailed exchange of opinions on the situation in the Near East, where an explosive seat of tension persists, and on possible ways to implement the increasingly urgent task of establishing a just and durable peace in the region. It was noted that preconditions are now emerging for a transition to unblocking the age-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

The participants in the conversation stressed that a Near East settlement must be all-embracing and must be based on careful consideration of the interests of all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestinian people. Such a settlement may only be achieved by collective actions through the convocation of an international conference. It was pointed out that international efforts must be mobilized in order to realize the idea of this forum.

The conversation took place in the friendly atmosphere typical of Soviet-Palestinian relations. Taking part on the Soviet side were K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and on the Palestinian side—F. Qaddumi, Y. 'Abd Rashid, S. al-Najjab, A. 'Ali Mustafa, M. Dawish, and A. Hurani, members of the PLO Executive Committee. [Moscow TASS in English at 1719 GMT on 8 April, in a similar report, adds: "'Arafat visited also the Soviet Foreign Ministry's diplomatic academy.'"]

Holds Talks With Shevardnadze

*PM111023 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4*

[TASS Report under the headline "Meeting at the USSR Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze had a meeting 9 April with the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Moscow on a working visit.

During the conversation, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, the interlocutors noted the common approach of the Soviet and PLO leadership to the cardinal tasks of present-day politics—the advancement of the process of disarmament and the creation of a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world.

Yasir 'Arafat spoke highly of the Soviet Union's efforts to improve the situation in the world and to create a climate of trust and stability in international relations. The Soviet-American INF Treaty is of historic importance and evidence of the viability of the new political thinking, which should be applied also to the solution of other international, including regional problems, the distinguished Palestinian guest stressed.

The main attention during the conversation was devoted to questions of the speediest attainment of an all-embracing settlement of the Middle East conflict, the oldest and most explosive one in the chain of regional conflicts.

Both sides resolutely condemned Tel Aviv's repressions and terror against the peaceful population of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.

We in the Soviet Union greatly admire the courage of the Palestinians, their unbending determination to achieve national liberation, Eduard Shevardnadze said. The Soviet people are in solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for the implementation of its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination.

The sides stressed that the popular uprising in the occupied territories has created a qualitatively new situation in terms of achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The former situation cannot continue any longer. The problems of a Middle East settlement, and its core question, the Palestinian question, must be solved, and solved without delay. For this it is necessary to achieve an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands and to give the Palestinians a possibility to freely shape their destiny and choose the form of their state arrangement. This is a demand of the times.

Both sides are convinced that an international conference is a generally recognised forum which would open up real possibilities for finding mutually acceptable decisions on all aspects of the settlement. Representatives of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and all sides drawn into the conflict, including the Arab people of Palestine, whose lawful representative is the PLO, should take part in the preparation and work of the conference.

The sides were unanimous that it is necessary to further intensify efforts to prepare and convene a Middle East conference. The main thing now is to activate the mechanism of the conference, to start practical talks within its framework. Both the Soviet and the Palestinian sides are ready for this.

Eduard Shevardnadze informed Yasir 'Arafat how the Soviet Union formulates its practical line in the field of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular in contact with the United States.

It was noted that the main criterion of evaluating approaches to the settlement and the conference should be the extent to which they facilitate advancement to a genuine, all-embracing Middle East settlement, a just solution of the Palestinian problem, the extent to which they accord to the principle of ensuring a balance of interests of all the sides drawn into the conflict.

Yasir 'Arafat stated support for the Soviet Union's approach to a settlement in the Middle East, for its perception of the role and significance of the international conference. He praised the practical actions taken by Soviet diplomacy along this direction.

Eduard Shevardnadze noted that progress towards a Middle East settlement depends largely also on the coordinated actions of the Arabs themselves, their mutual feeling of fellowship. In this connection attention was drawn to the importance of developing understanding and cooperation between all the Arab participants in the conflict.

Other regional problems were also discussed, first of all the Afghan problem. Eduard Shevardnadze outlined the Soviet point of view on this score, stressing that imaginative steps by the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan have brought the Afghan settlement right up to its completion. This is a worthy precedent for the political settlement of other regional conflicts. Yasir 'Arafat supported the statement adopted by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah in Tashkent on April 7, the political line of the Soviet Union, and the steps taken by it in this question. He said that for its part, the Palestinian leadership will facilitate to the extent of its possibilities the establishment of peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The sides spoke with great alarm and concern about the escalation of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the continuation of the "war of the cities." It is their common opinion that the United Nations organisation has a special role in the efforts to achieve the speediest ending of the Iran-Iraq war. Further steps to implement in full Resolution 598 of the Security Council, which is the political basis of a peaceful settlement of the conflict, should be worked out within its framework.

On expressing satisfaction with the state of Soviet-Palestinian relations, the sides stated their intent to promote their development. It was agreed to continue the practice of political coordination concerning questions of the international situation and the situation in the Middle East, including within the framework of the mechanism of bilateral consultations.

On behalf of the PLO and the entire Palestinian people Yasir 'Arafat expressed profound gratitude to the people and leadership of the Soviet Union for solidarity with and extensive support for the just struggle of the Palestinians for their inalienable national rights.

Participating in the talks were:

On the Palestinian side—PLO Executive Committee members F. Qaddumi, Y. 'Abd Rashid, S. Najjab, Abu 'Ali Mustafa, 'A. Hurani, and M. Darwish, and also N. 'Umar, PLO extraordinary representative in Moscow; on the Soviet side—V.P. Polyakov, member of the USSR Foreign Ministry Collegium.

Gorbachev, 'Arafat Meet

LD091812 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting in the Kremlin today with the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Yasir 'Arafat.

The interlocutors were unanimous that more favourable conditions have been forming lately for a settlement of the Middle East crisis.

The prospects of overcoming the crisis were studied from broad positions of the present world development. "The deeper the new thinking will enter the consciousness of the world public, political life, the quicker a new political situation will form in the world in which it will be easier to solve conflict, including regional problems", Mikhail Gorbachev said.

He said that given a profound dialectical understanding of the essence of the new thinking there is no contradiction between a policy based on it and the interests of every people, including those struggling for their independence, for an independent choice of national development. On the contrary, such a policy expands the possibilities of approaching in a new way the most complicated problems which defied solution for years and decades. In an atmosphere in which prospects of ridding mankind of the nuclear danger are shaping up it is the more intolerable that there remain trouble spots, bleeding wounds, which it is simpler to cure.

Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the Soviet Union's course in the world arena pursued in the spirit of new thinking facilitates the solution of the main international problems and improves conditions for settling regional conflicts as well.

On behalf of the Soviet people Mikhail Gorbachev expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people's selfless struggle. The Palestinians are a people with a difficult destiny. But it is not alone in upholding their just cause. The Palestinian people has extensive international support and this is the earnest of the solution of the main question for the Palestinian people—the question of self-determination. Just as recognition of the State of Israel and account for its security interests, the solution of this question is a necessary element of the establishment of peace and goodneighbourhood in the region on the basis of principles of international law.

The upsurge of the Palestinian popular movement has now become a key impulse for searching practical solutions leading to an all-embracing settlement. The potential of this mass upsurge is in its profoundly democratic nature and ability to stay away from the road of extremism despite the provocative and cruel repressions by the occupationists. This gains for the movement ever greater international support and sympathy in most diverse circles, Mikhail Gorbachev said.

The search for a solution of the Middle East problem should be based on negotiations, on an equal and businesslike dialogue and not on armed force and the desire to dictate, he said further.

The Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev said, persistently works for a just and all-embracing settlement with due account for the interests of all—both Arabs, including Palestinians, and Israel. It is prepared to interact constructively with all the participants in the peace process.

The Soviet view of the essence of the settlement, he said, is the following.

The withdrawal of Israeli troops from territories occupied in 1967—the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights—is the key precondition of a settlement.

The Palestinian people has the right to self-determination in the same measure as it is ensured for the people of Israel. How will the Palestinians exercise this right is exclusively their own business.

An international conference under the aegis of the United Nations organisation is the most effective mechanism of a settlement. Recognition by all its participants of resolutions 242 and 338 of the United Nations Security Council and the lawful rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination, should become the legal basis of the conference.

The conference should be attended by representatives of all sides drawn into the conflict, including the Arab people of Palestine, and also the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

The conference presupposes most diverse forms of interaction of its participants. As to the role of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, it will be to create a constructive atmosphere for the conduct of talks at the conference. For this purpose, in particular, they can collectively or individually table proposals and recommendations.

The invitations to all participants in the conference are to be sent by the United Nations secretary general.

Mikhail Gorbachev showed an understanding attitude to the idea of a single Arab delegation at the international conference.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Yasir 'Arafat exchanged views on various constructive ideas which could facilitate the preparation of the conference, its convocation and fruitful work.

The Soviet Union is not against intermediate measures and stages on the road to an all-embracing settlement. But they should be considered and carried out within the framework of the conference and in linkage with its end aims.

Success depends in many ways on the great powers, first of all the USSR and the United States. The Soviet approach provides for a combination of adherence to principle and realism, account for the viewpoints and interests of all sides related to the conflict. The point is to achieve a balance of interests.

One of the components of the normalisation of the situation in the Middle East must be the ending of the arms race there, the more so that it is acquiring a new nature in connection with the appearance of means of mass destruction and rockets with an enhanced range in the possession of the conflicting and warring sides.

Mikhail Gorbachev noted the importance of inter-Arab accord on the main questions of the Middle East settlement. The development of Syrian-Palestinian mutual understanding is acquiring special importance.

Yasir 'Arafat stated that the Palestinian people has always thought highly of the Soviet Union's invariable support for its inalienable national rights and of the Soviet efforts towards an all-embracing Middle East settlement.

The meeting passed in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere characteristic of the long-established friendly relations between the CPSU and the PLO. [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1700 GMT on 9 April in a similar report adds: "Taking part in the meeting were Comrades Shevardnadze, Dobrynin, Brutents, and Qaddumi, member of the PLO Executive Committee."]

Report on 'Arafat Interview

LD092110 Moscow TASS in English 2042 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—In an interview with the newspaper "IZVESTIYA", Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, staying in Moscow on a short working visit, said that what is today happening on the Israeli-occupied territories is a logical result of the long-standing struggle of Palestinian Arabs against the regime of occupation. The interview is published in today's newspaper. The scale and the nature of actions, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee went on to say, give ample grounds to call them a real uprising. This is a popular uprising. All Palestinians, irrespective of where they are, in solidarity with its participants. In

other words, the uprising is a symbol of unity of Arab ranks. No "mailed fist" policy and no reprisals will break up the people in revolt, said Yasir 'Arafat.

He told the newspaper that the number of Palestinians killed since the start of actions up to the present day is 282. As for the wounded, their number tops 7,000. A total of 16,000 Palestinians were thrown into prisons.

Noting that under international conventions population living under the conditions of occupation has the right to wage struggle against invaders with any means and methods, including armed actions, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee said that he did not issue an order to insurgents for the time being to use weapons to avoid unnecessary bloodshed.

"Speaking of a Middle East settlement, Yasir 'Arafat called the plan brought by Shultz unacceptable for Palestinians. Palestinians have learnt, he said, that the plan contains five so-called nays. "Nay" to the right of Palestinians to self-determination. "Nay" to an independent Palestinian state. "Nay" to the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. "Nay" to an independent Palestinian delegation at an international conference on the Middle East. Last but not least, an actual "nay" to the very conference, since, according to the U.S. idea, it is to be only of a ceremonial character.

The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee noted in this context that only the PLO has the right to represent the Palestinian Arab people anywhere, including international forums. To untie the Middle East knot, it is necessary to call a representative international conference which should be attended by five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all participants in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including of course the Palestine Liberation Organization. "I'm sure that today there is no other way for settling the crisis," said the Palestinian leader.

Holds News Conference

LD100028 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
2200 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] As has already been reported, a meeting took place in Moscow yesterday between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Taking part in the meeting were Comrade Shevardnadze and other officials.

After the talks, Yasir 'Arafat met with journalists. Our correspondent Ashot Nasibov was at the press conference:

[Nasibov] We are proud of our traditional comradely relations with our Soviet friends, said Yasir 'Arafat. I remember my meeting with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in Berlin 2 years ago, and my previous visits to Moscow when the Soviet initiative on

holding an international conference on the Middle East under UN auspices was put forward. But this conference must be effective. The PLO Executive Committee chairman recalled the words of the Soviet leader to the effect that the conference should not establish the rights of the Palestinians, but implement them, put them into practice.

Yasir 'Arafat declared that his current visit to Moscow was the most successful of all his visits. He placed great value on his conversations in Moscow, saying his meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev had confirmed the complete unity of views of the two sides on international problems.

Speaking of the Arab world's reaction to the Palestinian uprising, 'Arafat said the Arab world has started to move in the right direction. He compared it to a wheel as it gathers momentum, which needs time to reach the right speed.

Yasir 'Arafat showed journalists a thick list of those killed and wounded in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. Up to today, he said, about 280 Palestinians have been killed, 7,000 have been wounded; and 16,000 arrested. Responsibility for this is borne not only by the rulers in Israel, but also by those on the other side of the Atlantic who help them. U.S. tear gas grenades are being used against the Palestinians. Incidentally, deliveries of them have continued this year, too.

The visit by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to the Middle East was aimed precisely at ending the Palestinian uprising, the PLO Executive Committee chairman said. The West [word indistinct] the theme of the violations of human rights that allegedly exist in the Soviet Union, meaning a few dissidents, said Yasir 'Arafat. But the Western leaders remain silent about the rights of thousands upon thousands of people whom the Israeli occupiers beat and kill on Arab land.

Yasir 'Arafat answered numerous questions from journalists.

Describes Moscow Talks

*LD101640 Moscow International Service in Arabic
1430 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[Text] The short working visit paid by the delegation of the PLO Executive Committee, led by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee and leader of the Palestinian revolution, to the Soviet Union is over.

On 9 April, Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, received Yasir 'Arafat at the Kremlin. Talks were also held between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Yasir 'Arafat.

Before Yasir 'Arafat left Moscow, he gave our radio correspondent a statement:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I can say with pride that the meeting I had with Comrade Gorbachev in Berlin 2 years ago was an important beginning for stronger Palestinian-Soviet relations. I remember with pleasure the initiative announced by Comrade Gorbachev during President Mitterrand's visit to Moscow 2 years ago, concerning the importance of convening an international conference for a just and comprehensive solution for the Middle East and the Palestinian question. [Words indistinct] considering the Palestinian people's firm national rights, including their rights to return, self-determination, and the creation of an independent state.

This old-new Soviet-Palestinian relationship improve more and more, and I had the honor to take part in the festivities of the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, during which I had good and important talks with Comrade Gorbachev and a number of Soviet officials. This was before the Amman Arab summit. You remember that I left from here to go directly to Amman.

We have continuous contacts with the Soviet leadership, and our consultations have been continuous since Shultz came to the region for the second time after introducing his initiatives which aim, from our point of view as Palestinians, at containing the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people.

We are for the international conference, and we called for it before Shultz did, but we want a worthwhile international conference, and not a conference for celebrations. A conference, as Comrade Gorbachev said, which does not record the national rights of the Palestinian people, but achieves the national rights of the Palestinian people. I can say that we have had important, warm, and positive talks. I can say that these talks and their outcome are very important, not only on the Palestinian level, but on the level of the Middle East problem as a whole. I can describe this visit as among the most successful visits by Yasir 'Arafat to Moscow, and I always like to repeat that I always find Moscow's snows warm. Warm in all the meanings this word has. [end recording]

'Significance' of Meeting

*LD102124 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "before leaving Moscow" by unidentified correspondent on the "Vremya" newscast; 'Arafat remarks recorded in Arabic fading into Russian report; place not given]

[Text] In answer to a question about the significance of the Soviet-Palestinian summit meeting, Yasir 'Arafat said in particular:

['Arafat] First and foremost, I would like to express on behalf of the Palestinian delegation our sincere gratitude to the Soviet leadership, and to Comrade Gorbachev

personally, for their profound understanding of the difficult problems and contradictions of our region which have been awaiting a solution for a long time now. I will say that for us this was our most important and successful visit to the Soviet Union. It took place at a crucial time in world development when both questions of freeing mankind from the nuclear threat and problems of unblocking conflict situations are being put in a completely new way. We agree with the position of the Soviet leadership that the preservation of hot spots and open wounds—as the situation in the Near East is—is intolerable. It is essential to extend the new political thinking, which has already had its first success in the struggle to build a nuclear-free world, to resolving regional conflicts too.

The uprising of the Palestinian people has been raging for more than 4 months in the territories occupied by Israel, Yasir 'Arafat continues. All strata of the Arab population are taking part in it, all the factions represented in the PLO. We have put forward the slogan: Down With Occupation! It reflects the will of our people to achieve the right to self-determination and the creation of an independent Palestinian state. We are not asking the impossible nor do we speak from extremist positions. In spite of the cruel repressions of the occupiers, we are aspiring to realize our national dream of living in our native land, bringing up our children, having our own future. The uprising of the Palestinians, which has received broad international support and the sympathy of the most varied circles, including ones in the West and among the peace-loving forces of Israel, are contributing to the stepping up of the search for a peaceful settlement in the Near East, taking into account the interests of all countries and peoples of the region.

During my meetings in Moscow, says Yasir 'Arafat, the question of the convening an international conference on the Near East under UN auspices was discussed. It must be not merely a ceremonial one, but an effective working mechanism which could end the long drawn-out Near East conflict. It was stressed during my conversations in Moscow that a conference is needed that would not only define the national rights of the Palestinians, but would help them to be implemented, and would help all the sides in the conflict and the permanent members of the Security Council to find a balance of interests and achieve an all-embracing Near East settlement. Whatever the sacrifices and difficulties, the Arab people of Palestine, with the support of all peace-loving forces, will continue their just struggle to realize their legitimate national rights, said Yasir 'Arafat in conclusion.

Shevardnadze Hosts Dinner

LD101246 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, gave in the Kremlin on Saturday a dinner in honour of

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in connection with the completion of his short working visit to the USSR.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Yasir 'Arafat exchanged speeches.

Account of Dinner Speeches

PM111111 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 88
Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "In Support of a Just Cause"]

[Text] E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, gave a dinner 9 April in honor of Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in connection with the conclusion of his brief working visit to the USSR.

There was an exchange of speeches.

E.A. Shevardnadze said:

Cordially welcoming you to Soviet soil, I and my colleagues see you as a representative of the long-suffering and courageous Palestinian people—a people who have not despaired in the trials that have come their way but continue to hold aloft the banner of their liberation. Their steadfastness and constancy in the struggle for their inalienable national rights against foreign occupation—a steadfastness and constancy that have not been broken by years of violence and persecution—continue to inspire in us feelings of sympathy and support that are not dependent on any transitory considerations.

I think you saw this for yourself yet again today during your talk with M.S. Gorbachev.

Until the wandering, fighting people stripped of their homeland achieve their goal and acquire their legitimate rights, our support for their just cause will be an ever-present constant.

But today sympathy and compassion are not enough—wounds and suffering that have long ceased to be merely somebody else's problem urge us to action to defend the just cause. To action, we are profoundly convinced, that is collective; action by the entire world community draped in the blue flag of the United Nations.

I am neither able nor willing to hide from you the feelings we have experienced over recent days as a result of the long-awaited goal for which we have long striven and which, we are sure, will very soon be achieved. In saying "we," I am deliberately stressing the innumerable efforts made by a number of states under UN auspices to ensure a political settlement around Afghanistan. Divided on this question by profound contradictions and without foregoing their national interests, they have

nonetheless been able to establish that necessary balance of equal action [ravnodeystviye] which promises a genuine breakthrough in the seemingly unbreakable chain of regional conflicts.

As M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and DRA President Najibullah stressed in the Soviet-Afghan joint statement adopted in Tashkent 7 April 1988, the cooperation of other states in establishing peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan, and respect for the Geneva accords would be a good and hopeful example for the resolution of other regional conflicts.

Among the other conflicts in this sad and cruel list we primarily see the Near East, which is too near for us not to feel the full force of the tragedy convulsing it. Of course, each regional conflict has its own genesis and correspondingly its own means of settlement. In this respect the protracted Near East situation is the most complex; however, the example and lessons of the Afghan detente contain a seed of hope for the Palestinians too.

First and foremost they highlight the idea—and here I refer again to the Soviet-Afghan joint statement—that the constructive and collective participation of everyone involved in a settlement, and an approach based on broad international foundations are capable of removing all obstacles in the way of such a settlement. The Geneva process, which has led to a political settlement on Afghanistan, highlights the role and importance of an international conference on the Near East. Only such a forum can produce a real hope for all the peoples involved in the Near East conflict.

These lessons and this example also attest that the role of the United Nations and its secretary general and personal representatives can be most effective when the sides are actually prepared and really willing to cooperate with this universal world organization.

Whatever its critics and enemies might say, through our common efforts it is building up its prestige and positive influence on the state of affairs in whatever part of the world. We are convinced that this trend will be deepened.

The concept of "regional crisis" has long since entered the political lexicon and the everyday life of the planet. It is terrible that in its brutal manifestations this concept has succeeded in becoming commonplace. Whole peoples have been living for decades under conditions of permanent fighting. Strictly speaking, this is not life in the normal meaning of the word. But the same decades have slowly brought people to the most important conclusion for mankind: Military force and the armed suppression of people's desire for freedom are powerless in the face of that desire. The popular uprising of Palestinians on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are a reaffirmation of this. Punitive measures are powerless to

destroy any problem—even the smallest—that has developed with time and is bound up with prejudice and ill will. Not to mention such a problem as the Near East. But we would like to look at the situation both more broadly and more specifically—from the standpoint of its consequences.

Regional conflicts consume colossal material resources and leave permanent scars on the social, intellectual, and cultural development of whole peoples and states. According to certain calculations, over the last few decades the countries of the region have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on military purposes. Even a small proportion of this money would be enough to irrigate the barren deserts, feed millions of people, eradicate poverty and disease, and return to the Near East its preordained role of a bridge linking continents, peoples, cultures, religions, and outstanding moments and periods in the history of civilization.

Veritably weighing themselves down with arms, the region's states have come to the brink of the nuclear missile threshold. Chemical weapons have already been used many times in the region, in direct violation of the 1925 Geneva protocol. It is not hard to imagine the irremediable consequences to which the destructive logic of confrontation could lead.

There is only one way out: New political thinking must become, here as everywhere, the main vector of politics. In other words, the only arms to be taken up should be political means of finding a peaceful settlement to disputes, with indispensable respect for equality, identical security, and the rights of each state and people to self-determination, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Unfortunately, not everyone within the region and beyond it has as yet assimilated this imperative of our time. Attempts are still being made to avoid resolving fundamental aspects of a Near East settlement, to employ limited palliative measures as a substitute, to place one people at a disadvantage with respect to another, and to deprive them of their ability to determine their own destiny.

Here one can discern the clear reluctance of Israel and those who support it to face up to reality and accept the need and—I would say—inevitability of a fair resolution of the fundamental problem underlying the Near East situation: the Palestinian problem.

The Palestinian people, as one of the main parties in the Near East conflict, should be entitled to self-determination in the same measure as the Israeli people. Attempts to achieve a settlement without taking account of the balance of interests of all parties without exception—the Arabs, including the Palestinians, and Israel—will invariably lead to deadlock, since they run counter to the logic and lessons of history.

The time has long since come to honestly, sincerely, and seriously put the cause of a Near East settlement on the direct highway of preparations for the convening of an international conference with the participation of all directly interested parties, including the PLO and the members of the UN Security Council. This approach, which the Soviet Union, the Arab countries, and the overwhelming majority of other states have consistently advocated, is, in our view, the only reliable way of guaranteeing peace and security in the Near East.

Let us try, we say, to start with the most necessary point—let us set up a preparatory committee for the convening of an international conference. In the process of its formation many difficult questions which have so far been obstacles to a conference could be solved on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

Here in Moscow you have again been able to see for yourself how sincerely the Soviet leadership wishes to promote the convening of a conference with the indispensable and equal participation of the PLO.

And we have become firmly convinced from our talks with you that the leaders of the Palestinian movement are prepared to operate in a spirit of constructiveness and realism.

The establishment of a stable and just peace in the Near East is one of our foremost priorities. For its sake we are prepared to actively collaborate with everyone who shares this noble goal and to deepen coordination and cooperation with our Palestinian friends, the Arab states, and all interested parties.

The branch of Palestine, as a great Russian poet once described it, must finally produce the fruit of peace. Knowing how ardently you, Comrade 'Arafat, and all your comrades in the struggle want this, we wholeheartedly wish you successes in your just cause.

In his speech Y. 'Arafat said: I am very glad to visit Moscow again and be among true friends in the great Soviet Union, toward which the Palestinian people engaged in struggle have the deepest feelings of love and respect coupled with appreciation for its firm and principled stances in support of our just cause and national struggle for the full exercise of the fighting Palestinian people's national rights.

Dear friend, allow me to express once again my gratitude on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO leadership for the hospitality shown us on the soil of your friendly country by its wise leadership headed by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

We arrived in Moscow on the day which marked the beginning of the 5th month of our people's uprising. As you know, the uprising, which involves an all-out upsurge on the part of the people and is underpinned by

the energy of the national struggle, has demonstrated a new situation to the world. This has resulted in the Palestinian problem and the Near East crisis assuming a priority place among the most acute regional problems, which has prompted all peace-loving states and forces to make efforts to find ways of achieving a just, long-term settlement to the problem. Such a solution would extinguish one of the most dangerous centers of international tension and have a direct and beneficial influence on the cause of strengthening peace and international stability.

As you know, dear Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, the PLO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has tirelessly stressed that the continuation of the Zionist occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands involves cruel suffering by our people and could lead to even greater bloodshed and the spreading of tension throughout the region, particularly as the United States is not only continuing to give unlimited support to the occupation but it also providing it with political, military, and moral cover, confirming in action its stubborn reluctance for a just peace and arbitrary rejection of the objective conditions and real bases for peace. The United States regards Israeli interests as paramount in its policy and actions, ignoring the essence of the problem, namely, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, who enjoy growing international support, as the basis for any serious movement toward peace.

In this connection, dear Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, the PLO again states that a just and lasting Near East peace can only be established by the formula agreed on by the overwhelming majority of the world's states. This formula envisages an effective international conference to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and with the practical participation of the permanent members of the Security Council as well as the interested sides including, of course, the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people—on equal terms with the other sides. Mindful of our commitment to the principles of international law and to the resolutions which are to provide the basis for convening the conference, the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights and above all their right to self-determination are one of the main bases for convening the conference—bearing in mind that the conference is actually to produce the balanced decisions which would ensure peace and stability in the region. Decisions which would guarantee the interests and security of all, including the interests of the Palestinian people, who have the right to return home, to self-determination, and to the creation of an independent state on their native soil.

We are firmly convinced of the Soviet Union's support for this stance, which enshrines the community of our approach with the Soviet Union's sincere desire for peace. We are confident that the USSR's active role, which is having an ever-increasing influence on the solution of regional conflicts, will provide substantial support for our stance.

Our confidence here stems from the Soviet Union's peace-loving policy, the basis of which is consolidated by the USSR's special responsibility with regard to all present-day problems and by its role as a great power, which gives support in principle and in fact to the peoples' striving for peace, progress, freedom, and self-determination.

Dear Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze!

Our people's uprising on the occupied territories and its continuation and further development, despite the Zionist repression and acts of violence and despite U.S. maneuvers, have created broad opportunities for the attainment of a just and lasting peace. This fills us with faith in the future, a future which we have always regarded with an optimism which reflects our commitment to peace and stability in our region and throughout the world.

We are glad of the tremendous progress achieved in the solution of the Afghan problem. This progress resulted from the constructive Soviet initiative on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the promotion of national dialogue on the basis of the safeguarding of the independence and sovereignty of that friendly country, and the establishment of good relations with all its neighbors.

We can only express our concern at the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war and the further disastrous consequences of its continuation. We pay tribute to Iraq's peace efforts and initiatives and see the rapid implementation of all the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 598 as the real and practical beginning of the cessation of that war and the clearing of the way to a peaceful solution based on good-neighborliness between the two sides.

We rate highly the wise policy pursued by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and to its major and sincere efforts aimed at ending the nuclear arms race and creating a favorable atmosphere which would help to free mankind from the threat of destruction and enable the vast resources and potential squandered on armaments to be channeled into restructuring and to ensuring the human needs of a mankind which longs for lasting peace and desired prosperity.

Allow me once more, on behalf of our struggling people, to greet the great Soviet Union, its peoples—our true friends—and the wise Soviet leadership headed by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for whom both I and all our struggling people feel love and admiration. We see in Mikhail Sergeyevich a firm and unshakable supporter of our legitimate struggle and our just rights.

Dobrynin Bids Farewell

*LD101345 Moscow TASS in English 1308 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Moscow today after a short working visit. He was seen off at the airport by Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Anatoliy Dobrynin, First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov and other officials.

The send-off party also included the PLO representative in the Soviet Union, Nabil 'Umar.

DFLP's Hawatimah Rejects Shultz Plan

*LD092125 Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Damascus April 9 TASS—Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said that the Palestinians resolutely reject the American proposals made by U.S. State Secretary George Shultz during his visit to the region.

The Palestinians, the statement runs, are sure that all these attempts are doomed, since it is impossible to find a solution and to establish peace in the Middle East without restoration of legitimate national rights of Palestinians, including the right to self-determination and establishment of their own independent state and without holding a plenipotentiary and representative international conference under the U.N. aegis with the participation of permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all interested parties, including the PLO, on the basis of full and mutual equality.

Ivanov-Galitsyn Cited on Shultz Plan, PLO

*JN081647 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
6 Apr 88 p 7*

[Text] Moscow—AL-ITTIHAD—A Soviet official has affirmed that Moscow considers the U.S. initiative for peace in the Middle East somewhat positive. He said the important thing in the U.S. stand is that they have returned to the idea of holding a fully-authorized international conference with the participation of all parties to the Middle East dispute, including the 5 UN Security Council member states. He said this is also a positive stand.

He continued: Moscow presumes that the Americans consider UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 a basis for talks. However, we find many vague points in the Shultz plan and U.S. initiatives which need a great deal of clarity and explanation.

Aleksandr Ivanov-Galitsyn, deputy chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration and chief of the Persian Gulf and Jordan Section at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the latest

U.S. plan is inadequate for us and the Arab countries, as there is nothing in it indicating a solution to the Palestine question. He said: I consider it similar to the separate, unacceptable Camp David accords.

He said that the Americans want a solution to the Palestine question on the basis of the Camp David accords. This is unacceptable and its objectives are unclear as there is no indication of complete Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, he said. He added that this requires some explanation, since the Americans are still silent about the PLO's role and participation in the conference since this role has a great importance in decisionmaking and bringing about a solution to the Middle East dispute.

Ivanov-Galitsyn said: We must work together to achieve a speedy and just settlement of the Middle East issue. The objective of our contacts with the U.S. Administration is based on the activation of the idea of holding an international conference in the interest of all parties to the dispute. Nobody has the right to decide a settlement the way he wants and on his own. Therefore, the Soviet Union considers a collective solution and joint U.S.-Soviet efforts to be the best means to reach a settlement, which is necessary. Certainly, we are determined to win the approval of the third party and to take the interests of all parties into consideration, including the interests and rights of the Palestinians Arab people.

On the real Soviet stand on Palestinian representation in an international peace conference, especially after the western mass media's announcement that there is a change in the Soviet stand on this issue, Galitsyn said: We consider the PLO the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. No other organization has the right to participate in the conference to represent the Palestinian people. Therefore, the PLO must enjoy full rights like the other parties to the dispute. He affirmed that the form of representation in the conference must be decided by the PLO because it is the decisionmaker. Nobody at all has the right to impose his will on the PLO's decisions. It is the PLO which has the right to decide who will represent it unilaterally or with the participation of other parties. This is a purely Palestinian decision. What is important is the PLO's participation in an international conference on an equal footing with other parties.

The Soviet official denied the Western mass media's claims that Moscow has changed its stand on the issue of Palestinian representation in the conference. He said the Soviet Union's stand is constant. Moscow still insists on its stand. It believes it is important to show some flexibility in the issue, but basic principles should be taken into consideration; the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

Concluding his statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Ivanov-Galitsyn said the talks PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat will hold during his official visit on 7 April with the Soviet leadership will center on issues related to the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the means to support it, in addition to the issue of an international conference and issues of joint interest.

Paper Discusses Jordan's Near East Stance
PM111225 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 5

[Dispatch by special correspondent V. Skosyrev: "Conflagration on the Opposite Bank"]

[Text] Amman-Moscow—The Dead Sea is not actually as dead as all that. It is true that when you swim into a powerful wave you are only worried about one thing—making sure the bitterly salty spray does not get into your eyes. There is no time to think about the water's healing properties. But the Jordanians who come here to rest know about them and sometimes take away whole pitchers of water.

The first century historian Flavius had indeed already written about how the salt of the Dead Sea can heal. But nearly 2,000 years had to elapse before industry began to develop the resources of the unique lake to produce medicines and cleansing masks, creams, and other cosmetics. The Israelis were the first to see the commercial prospects opened up by this industry. Dead Sea products with Israeli labels can be found in many Western stores. Jordanian businessmen set about production later, but their goods are gaining popularity, especially in the Arab countries.

Outwardly the tension goes unnoticed by the Dead Sea, which washes Jordan, the Palestinian lands occupied by Israel, and the territory of Israel itself. When you drive along the coastal road edged with villas basking in the shade of palm trees and banana groves, you involuntarily recall the epithet given to Jordan by the Western newspapers. They have called it an oasis of calm in the Near East. Well, the fact that Israeli business and Jordanian business compete peacefully on foreign markets seems to confirm this description.

But you only have to come within some 10 km of the River Jordan for the feeling of serenity to disappear. The highway leading to the bridge linking the East and West Banks is deserted. Two servicemen in dark green sweaters with rifles stand immobile next to the bus station's concrete building, inside which not a soul is to be seen.

Just some 4 months ago traffic along the highway was quite lively. And that is natural: In 1967 the occupation divided many families, and relatives living on opposite banks of the river traveled to see each other. When the uprising began on the other bank, the Israeli authorities introduced a form of control such that a Palestinian is rarely allowed to travel. The check at the entrance to the

bridge takes 4-5 hours. If anyone seems suspicious to the security service, he is interrogated and sometimes sent back or even sometimes imprisoned.

True, exit conditions for Palestinians over 50 years old are easier. This fact was taken advantage of by my interlocutors, people well advanced in age, as they say, respectable people belonging to the "middle class." They speak of the events in their homeland without the emotions generally inherent in the Arab nature. I shall cite just one extract from what I heard. In the small town of Ramallah, young people raised the Palestinian flag over the hospital. Soldiers broke into the hospital, attacked the doctors and nurses and then hurled a tear gas grenade into the newborn babies' ward.

I should like to name my interlocutors, but that is quite impossible. "If Israel gets wind of who has given this interview, anything could happen on our return home," they explained. That is how it is....

It is calculated that in Jordan the majority of the population consists of Palestinians or people whose forbears were born in Palestine. You cannot find a Jordanian who looks with indifference on the conflagration raging on the opposite bank of the sacred river. A characteristic episode: In Amman on the day off I meet with five fat women in black clothes but with uncovered faces, obviously sisters. I ask permission to photograph them. "You can't," they say, with a wave of the hand. "When we regain our land, we will be photographed to remember the occasion."

Given such feelings it is hard to understand why you do not see demonstrations of solidarity here in support of the PLO. I turn for an explanation to Marwan Dudin, minister for the occupied territories

"We must be on our guard. After all," the minister replied, "Israel is conducting subversive activity against us and is prepared to seize on any pretext to export lawlessness and disorder. This would enable it to implement a plan it developed long ago: purging the West Bank of Arabs and driving them into Jordan."

That is the official explanation. There are probably others as well. For instance, take the country's economic development. In contrast to the majority of Arab states, Jordan does not extract oil. Its prosperity rests largely on political stability. Thanks to this stability, Western companies and Persian Gulf oil shaykhs continue to invest capital here while Jordanian doctors, teachers, and other specialists, having worked abroad, send their savings not to Swiss banks but home. All this explains why Jordan, which, from a geographical viewpoint, is at the very epicenter of the Arab-Israeli conflict, adheres to what the Western press is accustomed to call a "moderate line."

This year King Husayn visited several Arab countries. The purpose of the visits was to work out a single position in the light of "the United States' new Near East

initiative," that is, Shultz' plan. Naturally, close attention has been devoted here to his mission to the Near East. How does Amman assess the Shultz plan? I put this question to 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the lower chamber of parliament.

It could be seen from his reply that Amman considers it senseless to categorically reject the U.S. plan. It contains both positive and negative aspects, Al-Fayiz said. The positive aspect is that the United States has finally recognized the need to convene an international conference on the Near East. And on the other hand, the United States continues to devote no thought to a fundamental solution of the Palestinian problem. The speaker did not go into details, mentioning that the press was writing enough about the Shultz plan.

Well, if we generalize the statements of officials and journalists, the following picture emerges. Acknowledging the United States' big role in the region, Amman intends to continue talks with it. But the Jordanians are rejecting partial, separate deals with Israel and are demanding the PLO's full representation at the conference and attach paramount importance to the Soviet Union's participation in the Near East settlement process.

The last point was emphasized in talks by Jordanians, Palestinians, professional politicians, and "the man on the street." Their opinion here was the same. While the United States is called Israel's bulwark, we are looked on as an ally which is helping the search for a just peace.

In speaking of the Arabs' friendly feelings for the Soviet Union, it would be wrong to keep quiet about the puzzled questions which we members of the USSR Journalists Union delegation were sometimes asked. There was talk of emigration from the USSR to Israel. "In all it is hard for me to imagine how people could prefer a foreign country to the Soviet Union," Palestinian journalist Marwan Soudah said. "Of course, I know that the exit problem is resolved on the basis of Soviet laws and the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. Nonetheless I cannot close my eyes to the fact that some former Soviet citizens in Israel are being drafted into the army and sent to the occupied lands.

"I do not want to adopt the pose of a judge and offer any formulas," Marwan continued. "But it seems to me that a lack of objective information is making itself felt in our country. After all, your press provides very meager coverage of Israel and the daily problems its citizens encounter. For instance, I cannot understand why there is not a single Soviet journalist working in Israel."

These are the words of a Palestinian who is sympathetic toward us. I think it is worth heeding his opinion.

Jordanian King Receives Friendship Delegation

LD071523 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT
7 Apr 88

[Text] Amman April 7 TASS—King Husayn of Jordan has received a delegation from the USSR-Jordan Friendship Society headed by Nikolay Trubilin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation's Council of Ministers.

During the conversation the monarch highly assessed the Soviet Union's support for the fair cause of the Arab peoples. The king pointed to the identity of Jordan's and the USSR's positions on topical international problems and stressed the important role played by the society of friendship in promoting ties between the two countries.

The Soviet delegation, which took part in the festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the society of Jordanian-Soviet friendship, was received also by the chairman of the House of Deputies, 'Akif al-Fayiz, prime minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and a number of ministers. The talks were attended by Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksander Zinchuk.

A meeting on the occasion of the jubilee of the Friendship Society was addressed by its president, prominent state figure, Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni.

The activity of our organisation is broadening with each year," he said. "In 20 years of its existence, the society has played an important role in promoting not only cultural, scientific, sports and religious affairs, but also greatly contributed to expanding and deepening interstate relations," al-Talhuni said.

The head of the Soviet delegation, Chairman of the board of the USSR-Jordan Friendship Society Trubilin read out a decision of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies to award al-Talhuni and several activists of the society the honorary badge of the union "for contribution to the cause of friendship."

Mubarak Cited on Mideast Peace Conference Idea

PM071607 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 88
Morning Edition p1

[Article by own correspondent D. Velikiy: "Egypt Supports the Idea of a Conference" under rubric "Reports From Abroad"]

[Text] Cairo—In statements on various issues, several official representatives of the Egyptian Government have touched on one and the same question: The possibility of convening an international conference on the Near East.

For example, Usamah al-Baz, first deputy foreign minister and head of the Egyptian president's political office, has said the Arab countries agree that UN Security

Council Resolutions 242 and 338 must form the basis of any negotiations on a Near East settlement. We must hold an international conference, he stressed when speaking to journalists.

According to Egyptian President H. Mubarak, Egypt is making active efforts to convene such a forum, at which all interested parties would be represented, including PLO representatives, and in which the permanent members of the UN Security Council would take part. According to the EGYPTIAN GAZETTE, the president has criticized the stand taken by Israel, which is opposed to the idea of holding a conference.

Representatives of the Egyptian leadership have said that the main impediment in the way of peace in the Near East is still the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister has decisively condemned the Israeli policy of isolating the occupied territories and has demanded that Tel-Aviv's leaders end the repression which is giving rise to heightened tension throughout the region.

Comment on Israeli Reaction to Bayta Incident

LD081848 Moscow TASS in English 1756 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—By TASS commentator Yevgeniy Babenko:

A general uprising in Israeli-occupied Arab territories is continuing for the fifth month and over this time the Israeli military has been perpetrating one crime after another. Hundreds upon hundreds of people, including women, senior citizens and children, have been killed by the occupiers using firearms, grenades and bayonets against the local population.

On April 6 an Israeli girl was killed near the city of Nablus in the West Bank of the River Jordan. Innocent blood was shed.

All normal people, naturally, can have only a negative attitude to this fact. How have the Israeli mass media presented the tragedy, however? Raising a terrible outcry at once, they hurried to accuse Palestinians of the child's death, without giving any proof, and this definitely helped fuel anti-Arab hysteria among the Israelis even further.

And how it all happened in reality? A group of Israeli settlers was on a bus tour of Nablus environs when it was greeted with a hail of rocks by young people living in the village of Bayta. The excursionists' armed guards opened fire at the unarmed Palestinians right away. Killed besides the Israeli girl, as a result, were two Palestinians and more than ten others, most of them children, were wounded.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE described the incident as the most serious clash between Palestinians and Israeli settlers since last December. It is true that it is not every day that children and teenagers are killed even in long-suffering Arab lands trampled underfoot by the Israeli military.

But in Tel Aviv they have a very peculiar idea of "the freedom of information".

Israeli radio, television and newspapers reported the girl's death in the "see what these Palestinians do" vein. These same news outlets, in the meantime, have kept mum about numerous casualties among Arabs and their children. What happens to the latter is "of no interest" to those shaping public opinion in Israel, and not only in Israel, for that matter.

Otherwise, it would be difficult to explain the conspiracy of silence among the Tel Aviv press and Western wire services on other facts.

On April 5 a 16-year-old Palestinian youth was gravely wounded as Israeli troops dispersed defenseless demonstrators in the village of Sa'ilah in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Hamza Ibrahim abu Shab, 20, died from wounds in a Gaza hospital a day ago. Israeli troops had shot him during a demonstration in the village of Bani Suhayl.

Two more injured Arab teenagers have just been taken to a Gaza hospital, one of them blind after being hit by a plastic bullet.

It has also been just reported that 25 Palestinian children were badly poisoned after eating foodstuffs left for them by Israeli troops in the Tulkarm refugee camp in the West Bank.

The list of such crimes can be continued.

Does all this mean that there are children and children? That it is possible to feel pity for one Israeli girl, while keeping silent on other numerous victims among very young Palestinians and pretending that there is nothing special about the killing of Arabs?

No, children are children everywhere, flesh of flesh of their parents, and their love and hope. To deprive children of any nationality of life is to deprive humanity of its future.

The sources of the tragedy in the occupied Arab lands should be sought in the policy of terror and repression maintained by Tel Aviv so stubbornly with Washington's support.

Air Force Chief Yefimov Leaves for Syria 4 Apr
PM071543 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "On a Visit to Syria"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov, commander in chief of the Air Force and USSR deputy defense minister, left Moscow for Damascus on an official visit 4 April.

Marshal of Aviation A.N. Yefimov was seen off at the airport by Army General I.M. Tretyak, commander in chief of Air Defense Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, and by generals and officers.

The send-off party included Division General M.H. al-Qassabin, acting military attache at the Syrian Embassy in the USSR.

Bomb Explodes in Kuwait 9 Apr; No Casualties
LD100613 Moscow TASS in English 0603 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] London April 10 TASS—A bomb was exploded by unidentified men in Kuwait City on Saturday, the news agency REUTER reported. The explosion which occurred on a police parking lot did not cause casualties. The source of the blast is being investigated, the news agency said.

Terrorists planted at least nine bombs in Kuwait last year.

Gunmen, who have taken hostages and hijacked a Kuwaiti passenger airliner now in Cyprus, demand the release of 17 people imprisoned in Kuwait for complicity in bomb attacks, the news agency notes.

Reportage on Supreme Soviet Group's Gulf Tour

UAE Talks Concluded

PM071259 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Apr—The visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] by a special mission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is on a tour of the countries of the Persian Gulf, has ended. The special mission, headed by G.S. Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, was received by Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and Khalifah ibn Zayid al-Nuhayyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy commander in chief of the UAE Armed Forces, and held a meeting with members of the country's Federal National Council. M. Kanoatov, first secretary of the Tajik SSR Writers' Union Board, and S.A. Losev, general director of TASS, who are members of the

special mission, held meetings with Ahmad ibn Hamid, UAE minister of information and culture. S.A. Losev was briefed on the work of the UAE news agency and had a conversation with its leadership. The Soviet parliamentarians visited the Emirates of Dubayy and Sharjah, which form part of the federal state. Before leaving the country, the delegation held a press conference for representatives of the local and regional press. F. Fedotov, USSR ambassador to the UAE, took part in the conversations.

The similarity of the two states' stances on many pressing problems of the present day was noted during the meetings and conversations held. Senior UAE officials welcomed the USSR's firm, principled policy aimed at supporting the Arab peoples' interests and achieving a just solution of the Near East problem. Stress was placed on the need to convene as soon as possible a proper international conference with the aim of reaching an all-embracing Near East settlement and satisfying the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. In this regard it was noted that the continuing uprising of the population of the Israeli-occupied territories confirms that attempts to restrict the right of Palestinian Arabs to full self-determination and the creation of their own independent state are unacceptable to the Arabs.

Both sides called for the earliest cessation of the Iran-Iraq war on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the adoption of effective implementation measures.

More on Talks in Oman

PM081457 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88
Morning Edition p4

[TASS report: "Visit by Soviet Special Mission"]

[Text] Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman received G.S. Tarazevich, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and head of a special USSR Supreme Soviet mission here, in the city of Salalah Wednesday. During the conversation the sides discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Oman and a number of international and regional problems, including the questions of ending the Iran-Iraq war and reaching a Near East settlement. During the meeting, which proceeded in a spirit of frankness, the sides emphasized the usefulness and necessity of continuing a regular exchange of opinions on issues of mutual interest.

On the same day the USSR Supreme Soviet special mission had a meeting with Y. ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. During the conversation, the minister voiced the hope that the Soviet parliamentarians' visit would make a positive contribution to the development of USSR-Omani relations.

Touching on the situation in the Persian Gulf region, Y. ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah noted that the Iran-Iraq war is causing Oman particular concern. Oman fully supports the Soviet proposal to establish naval forces in the region sailing under the UN flag.

The USSR Supreme Soviet special mission also had a conversation with 'Abd al 'Aziz al-Rawwas, Omani minister of information. He indicated the Omani leadership's support for the idea of convening an international conference to solve the Near East problem.

Mission to Kuwait

LD071425 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT
7 Apr 88

[Text] Muscat April 7 TASS—A special mission of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR ended a visit to the Sultanate of Oman and flew to Kuwait today.

The group is being led by Georgiy Tarazevich, a vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Belorussia.

It held substantive meetings with the leadership of the State Consultative Assembly of Oman, Deputy Prime Minister Sa'id Fahd ibn Mahmud al Bu Sa'id, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah, and Minister for Information 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas.

On April 6 Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received the head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation in his summer residence in Salala.

Special attention during the meetings was paid to the situation in the Persian Gulf and the issue of putting an early end to the Iran-Iraq war.

The Omani side said the unjustifiably massive foreign naval buildup in the Persian Gulf, far from ensuring free shipping, means added and dangerous complications in the region. In this connection the Omani leadership supported the idea of creating a naval force under the U.N. flag in the Gulf.

The Omani leadership received with understanding the latest initiatives of the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan, aimed at achieving a political settlement to the situation regarding the latter country and at ensuring the status of a neutral non-aligned state for it. It was pointed out that the Soviet Union lately has done much to remove obstacles in the way to a settlement and everything now hinges on Pakistan.

The sides expressed themselves in favor of further developing Soviet-Omani relations.

Kuwait April 7 TASS—The special Soviet parliamentary mission, which includes MP's Muminsho Kanoatov, first secretary of the Board of the Union of Writers of Tajikistan, and TASS Director-General Sergey Losev, arrived in Kuwait.

It was welcomed at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi.

Received by Kuwaiti Amir

PM111135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 88
Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "High Assessment"]

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Apr—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, has received the USSR Supreme Soviet special mission that is touring the Persian Gulf countries. G.S. Tarazevich, head of the special mission and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, conveyed to the Kuwaiti head of state greetings and best wishes from A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

During the talk, the sides expressed satisfaction with the development of Soviet-Kuwaiti relations and noted the need to implement further steps to expand cooperation. Our goals, the amir stated, undoubtedly coincide and we take the same view of world problems. Kuwait, he continued, supports the initiatives put forward by the USSR with a view to achieving universal security, because the Soviet initiatives correspond to the interest of the entire international community.

The amir of Kuwait pointed to the presence of foreign navies in the Persian Gulf as a factor complicating the situation in the region. He noted that internationally, Kuwait advocates the speediest settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and the withdrawal of Soviet troops taking account of the 8 February 1988 statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The head of the Soviet delegation drew attention to the USSR's constructive role in the efforts aimed at ensuring the speediest ending of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah conveyed wishes for successes and greetings to the Soviet leadership.

Pakistani Cities Rocked by Explosions

PM111605 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 1

[IZVESTIYA Press Service "Giving Details" report: "Cities Rocked by Explosions"]

[Text] A major fire broke out at the Pakistani military depot in Faizabad, situated between the cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, which adjoin one another. As a

result of the fire, hundreds of missiles and mortars went up in the air and came down on residential districts in both cities. According to provisional figures, around 80 people were killed and 850 were injured. Hundreds of houses were destroyed or damaged, including the Islamabad International Airport building. There was panic on the streets of the cities.

Reuters has cited people who witnessed the event: "An enormous fireball leaped into the air. Missiles and bombs were going off all over the place. It was like being in hell.... Hundreds of big trees were on fire on the streets. People were running for cover, but bombs were exploding in houses, schools, on highways, and in state institutions...."

"We thought war had broken out," one witness said.

Three days of national mourning have been declared in Pakistan. The country's president Ziaul Haq interrupted his visit to Kuwait and returned home immediately.

According to the official version, the disaster was the result of an "unfortunate accident."

UPI, referring to Western sources, reports that the weapons stored at the depot were intended for Afghan anti-government groupings.

On the same day a fire broke out at a military plant near the Pakistani city of Lahore. According to UPI, 8 people were killed and 17 were injured. There was also a big explosion in another Pakistani city—Karachi.

UPI stresses that all this happened 2 days after the announcement of next week's signing of the agreement on Afghanistan in Geneva. As is known, G. Hekmatyar, head of the Afghan antigovernment groupings, rejected the Geneva agreement and announced that the armed struggle would continue.

B. Bhutto, leader of the biggest Pakistani opposition party, said in London that she blamed her country's authorities for what had happened.

Carlucci Ends Official Visit to Pakistan

LD081637 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad April 8 TASS—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has ended an official visit to Pakistan in the course of his tour of Northern Africa and Southern Asia.

He met with President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and held talks also with Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud Khan and other ranking commanders of the Pakistani Armed Forces.

The American-Pakistani meetings covered bilateral cooperation in the framework of a military-economic deal to a tune of more than four billion dollars, which covers the years 1987 through 1993, and problems related to a settlement regarding Afghanistan and Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva.

Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad, Carlucci reaffirmed Washington's intention to keep strengthening military cooperation with Pakistan. He stressed specially that close American-Pakistani links in the military field will continue also after the Afghanistan problem is settled.

It was agreed during his stay here that the United States will be visited by representatives of the Pakistani Air Force to see aircraft equipped with AWACS (air-borne warning and control) systems. Talks between the two countries on the sale of such planes to Pakistan have been under way for more than a year.

Ahead of Carlucci's visit to Islamabad the Pentagon notified U.S. Congress of its plans to sell Pakistan another eleven F-16 nuclear-capable fighter-bombers in addition to 40 such aircraft earlier acquired by this country.

The Pakistanis will also receive soon 560 air-to-air missiles worth an aggregate 87 million dollars.

These shipments have prompted sharp protests in countries neighboring on Pakistan.

AN-26 Airliner Shot Down in Afghanistan

Casualties Reported

LD102252 Moscow TASS in English 2057 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 10 TASS—A transport and passenger aircraft AN-26 making a flight from Maymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif was shot down by a "ground-to-air" missile at 3.10 p.m. local time today. Six crew members and 23 passengers were killed, the BAKHTAR news agency reports.

The news agency condemned the extremists' new crime committed at a time when the Afghan people exerts great efforts to implement the course at national reconciliation, is striving to end bloodshed in the country.

President of the Republic of Afghanistan Najibullah expressed profound condolences to the bereaved families.

Rebel Arms 'Stockpiled'

LD111428 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

The list of air disasters in Afghan skies has been extended: An Afghan AN-26 transport plane, which was on a domestic flight from Maymaneh to Mazar-e Sharif, was shot down by a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile. Twenty-nine people, among them eight women and two children, were killed.

The use of missiles against planes in Afghan skies is continued. It is being in every way spurred on by the leaders of the "Peshawar Seven" that have entrenched themselves in Pakistan. Seeking to hinder the national reconciliation process, the alliance's leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has again stated that the 'rebels will carry on the armed fight'. They have already shot down several civilian planes and a number of those killed amounted to almost 200.

How long can this be continued? Why do people still die in Afghan skies? Who is interested in the continuation or such a state of things?

Not the Afghan people, of course, and not the Kabul government which takes most energetic measures to stop the fratricidal war. Kabul's peaceful constructive proposals and its policy of national reconciliation find a broad support among the Afghans.

But the leaders of the insurgents are unwilling to listen to the voice of reason and to join the settlement process. Rejecting Kabul's proposal to take part in the formation of a coalition government, they count on military force, disregarding casualties.

With this end in view, mountains of arms are being stockpiled and their arsenals are continuously replenished with new types of combat equipment. According to the press, new batches of Stinger and Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles, Tow and Milan anti-tank missiles, 120 mm mortars, recoilless rifles and other hardware get to the insurgents' bases.

Who is to benefit from that? Such a political course cannot promote in any way an end to sanguinary tragedies in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan.

Religious Leader's Comments

LD111413 Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Tashkent April 11 TASS—The news of the new crime by the opponents of peace in Afghanistan caused deep sorrow among the followers of Islam in the Soviet Union, Sheikh Yusup Khan Shakirov, deputy chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, told TASS. "The cynicism of the terrorists who downed a transport plane, an action that took 29 human lives, cannot be justified by any political motives", the religious leader said.

It is particularly sorrowful that the inhuman action was staged right after the all-important peace-making event—the signing in Tashkent by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Najibullah of the joint Soviet-Afghan statement. At a time when several countries, the United Nations organisation, religious and public leaders join efforts to create pre-conditions to bring peace to much-suffering Afghanistan, the actions by terrorists give rise to grave concern.

"The world is constantly changing. Everything, even faith, need renovation", says Ali Ibn Abutolib [name as received], the prophet's associate. "Those politicians who stake on force and threats, use notions which have long since been outdated. The new thinking, which is based on respect of each man's right to life, freedom and progress, should be asserted in all spheres today, especially, in those which determine people's destiny", said Sheikh Yusup Khan Shakirov.

Afghan Parliamentary Elections Continue
*LD081404 Moscow TASS in English 1319 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[text] Kabul April 8 TASS—Elections are continuing to the highest legislative body of the Republic of Afghanistan—the National Council. Tens of thousands of representatives of all the classes and sections of the Afghan society, including refugees and former members of armed groups of the opposition, have already voted for their candidates.

Using the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the election law, the citizens of the republic are nominating to the supreme legislative body representatives who have the fullest trust of the population, who know the strivings and aspirations of the people and are capable of being a reliable link between the people and the government.

Afghans regard the elections to the National Council as one of the achievements of the policy of national reconciliation. Being genuinely free and democratic, these elections create all conditions for the people's participation in the country's political life.

Najibullah on Elections, Tashkent Meeting
*LD110718 Moscow TASS in English 0656 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Kabul April 11 TASS—The staff of the president of the Republic of Afghanistan office have met for an enlarged meeting in the Afghan capital to sum up the results of the first five days of elections to the National Council. Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed the meeting. He said that the elections are held in a truly democratic atmosphere and in scrupulous compliance with the country's Constitution.

A total of 759,000 people voted for their candidates over this period. The Afghan leader expressed the hope that the whole of the Afghan people will take an active part in the elections.

On the recent Tashkent meeting with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the joint Soviet-Afghan statement, Najibullah said that with the adoption of this document the long-awaited dream of the Afghan people would come true and the Geneva negotiations would be successfully completed.

Significance of Afghan Trade Protocol Analyzed
*LD081733 Moscow in English to North America
2300 GMT 7 Apr 88*

[Text] In Kabul, a protocol has been signed as a result of a session held by the standing Soviet-Afghan intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando reports from the Afghan capital.

The protocol outlines the prospects of cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan to the end of the century. As the Afghan deputy prime minister, Muhammad 'Aziz, pointed out in an interview for Radio Moscow, cooperation with the Soviet Union is essential to his country. The implementation of joint projects will raise the living standards for the Afghan people. It will also be conducive to creating the necessary political climate in the process of national reconciliation.

An important role in bilateral cooperation will be played by direct ties established between Afghanistan and Soviet republics, first of all those in Central Asia. The population of many Afghan provinces already feels their results. Different manufactures and food products the Afghan people need so much arrive from the USSR. And in exchange Afghanistan sends to the Soviet market its traditional export items. Last year alone 11 facilities were put into operation in Afghanistan with Soviet aid. They include a foundry at the smelting plant in Jangalak, a broadcasting center and a blood transfusion station in Kabul. A railway station was reconstructed in (Tugwide) and the plans provide for giving Soviet aid in the development of Afghanistan's health service, education, news media, communications and the training of specialists.

Soviet-Afghan 'Multifaceted' Cooperation Noted
*PM110931 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 4*

[Dispatch by own correspondent D. Meshchaninov under the "Facts, Events, Opinions" rubric: "Afghanistan-USSR: The Country Will Heal Its Wounds"]

[Text] Kabul—Cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan is multifaceted. Direct Soviet-Afghan ties have acquired particular importance recently.

"What are the thrust and prospects for the new form of cooperation between our countries?" was the question I put to Sayyed Ekram Paygir, chief of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers administration for direct cooperation affairs.

"The establishment of direct ties will make it possible, with the aid of our Soviet friends, to consider in more detail the problems and needs of all strata of society, which is acquiring paramount importance under the conditions of the practical implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

"I emphasize that one important aspect of this cooperation consists in contacts between people," Sayyed Ekram Paygir continued. "The exchange of state and trade union, women's and youth delegations and groups of figures of culture and art and specialists of various kinds is envisaged. All this will enable the Afghans to master the professions so necessary to the country today, to get to know Soviet people better, and to resolve with their aid the most acute problems in their native hamlet, district, or province. In brief, we pin great hopes on the new form of Soviet-Afghan cooperation...."

The protocol on establishing direct ties was signed in 1987 and the first consignments of freight soon began to arrive. While on out-of-town assignments I saw tractors and combines, wheat seeds and necessities, medical supplies and school requisites arriving in various Afghan provinces. I heard from the simple peasants words of sincere thanks to Soviet people for their aid at a difficult time.

Delegations from the Soviet oblasts and republics visiting the provinces have been familiarized on the spot with the state of affairs, have discussed cooperation prospects with the local authorities, and have outlined priority tasks. I remember a talk with members of a delegation from Kherson Oblast returning to Kabul from Nimruz Province.

"To be honest, after your trip you look at Afghanistan's problems with different eyes," A.Ye. Verbitskiy, deputy chairman of the Kherson Oblispolkom, told me. "The province's few schools lack premises, desks, textbooks, and even pencils. Nimruz has virtually no construction material of its own. Essentially there is nothing with which to construct. That is why we will send huts in prefabricated panel form which can be adapted for use as makeshift classrooms and medical centers."

Or take another example. The number one problem for Qandahar. There is a catastrophic shortage of housing, the undeclared war has destroyed or damaged over half the city's housing. On arriving here, envoys from Kazakhstan decided to increase deliveries of prefabricated houses and to help in erecting the brick plant which is under construction.

As for Kabul, which has established direct ties with Moscow, here a joint course has been steered toward resolving priority problems: housing, sewage (there is virtually none in the city), and providing citizens with drinking water and transport. The Moscow soviet will render assistance in training skilled municipal economy specialists.

Soviet people are rendering all-around aid to the people of Afghanistan. Direct ties work in favor of Afghan-Soviet friendship.

Afghan Editors Cited on Joint Statement
PM111001 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 88
First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent V. Okulov dispatch: "Correct Line. Our Interviews"]

[Text] Kabul, 8 Apr—I acquainted myself with the joint Soviet-Afghan statement with tremendous interest, Hamid Roga, chief editor of HEYWAD, the organ of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, said to your correspondent. In my opinion, this document's provisions are exceptionally important. It is a question of a politically acute analysis of the situation and a settlement of the situation around Afghanistan at a time when, I like to think, the last obstacles to the conclusion of the Geneva agreements have been removed. We are, evidently, on the verge of signing them, and if this takes place within the shortest possible period, the Afghan people and all the peace-loving public will be able to hail a victory for common sense and goodwill. The settlement of the external aspects of the Afghan problem will be a victory for the new political thinking and will be a legal base for eliminating the regional conflict which has taken shape here.

"I would like to stress the tremendous role of the constructive efforts being applied by our countries' leaders in order to successfully complete the Geneva process," my interlocutor continued. "The USSR's readiness for high-level cooperation with Afghanistan in restoring our economy demonstrates internationalism and further develops traditional Afghan-Soviet friendship...."

Here is the opinion of Bariq Shafayi, chief editor of HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, organ of the PDPA Central Committee:

"It is Moscow and Kabul's concerted initiatives which have made it possible to steer the Afghan-Pakistani Geneva talks toward a practical resolution. I rate highly the support voiced in the Soviet-Afghan statement for the policy of national reconciliation as the sole correct line consonant with the interests of the Afghan people and all their neighbors and the interests of the international community."

"I think that our readers will see the extreme importance of the Soviet Union's confirmation of President Najibullah's statement on Afghanistan as an independent non-aligned neutral state. The USSR's readiness to offer our state help in creating conditions for the return of the Afghan refugees who are in Pakistan and other countries is also of great importance. I am confident that every honest Afghan will welcome the Soviet Union's readiness to continue most active cooperation with our republic."

Keshtrand Receives Red Cross-Crescent Group
*LD101002 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Kabul April 10 TASS—Afghan Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtrand has received a delegation of the Union of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, led by chairman of its Executive Committee Dmitriy Venediktov. During the meeting, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, views were exchanged on the development of further cooperation between the Soviet society and its Afghan counterpart.

During the visit the two societies signed a protocol which, in particular, provides for developing cooperation in public health and care and for promoting progressive methods of training medical personnel.

East Europe

CSSR's Husak Begins Moscow Visit 11 April

Leaders Attend Arrival
*LD110942 Moscow TASS in English 0935 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Gustav Husak, member of the Presidium of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party Central Committee, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, arrived in Moscow today on an official friendly visit. He was invited by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

At the airport Gustav Husak was met by Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, foreign minister of the USSR, and other officials.

Talks With Gromyko
*LD111133 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Soviet-Czechoslovak talks started in the Kremlin today. Taking part in them are Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politbureau of the

CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Gustav Husak, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of Czechoslovakia.

Gustav Husak arrived in the Soviet Union for an official friendly visit today.

CPCZ Plenum Makes Leadership Changes
*LD092015 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Prague April 9 TASS—The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia which discussed the pressing tasks of party work under the conditions of restructuring the economic mechanism and further development of socialist democracy, ended its work here today.

Plenum participants discussed the report of the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee which was delivered by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and expressed their full support for it. They assured the Central Committee in their speeches that they would exert all their efforts to translate into life the plenum's decisions.

The plenary meeting considered organizational questions. The plenum elected Jan Fojtik and Ugnac Janak members of the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee. Jozef Lenart, member of the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee, was elected secretary of the Central Committee and chairman of the National Economic Commission of the CPC Central Committee. Miroslav Zavadil was elected alternate member of the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee and Frantisek Hanus—secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The plenary meeting relieved Antonin Kapek of his duties of a member of the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee, Josef Haman, Josef Havlin and Jindrich Polednik—of their duties of secretaries of the CPC Central Committee.

The concluding remarks at the plenary meeting were made by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Jakes Presents Report
*PM111402 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "CPCZ Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] Prague, 9 Apr—A plenum of the CPCZ Central Committee ended here today. The report of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium "On the Party's Work in the Conditions of the Restructuring of the Economic Mechanism and the Further Development of Socialist Democracy" was delivered by M. Jakes, CPCZ Central

Committee general secretary. He stressed that the CPCZ's sense of responsibility to the Czechoslovak people and the international revolutionary movement was clearly manifested and its profound awareness of its mission at the present crucial stage of development was evidenced in the elaboration by the 17th party congress of the course of accelerating socioeconomic development, and subsequently, especially at the CPCZ Central Committee December (1987) Plenum, of the comprehensive program of restructuring and democratization in all spheres of society's life.

The experience of the CPSU and its Leninist course, which is being implemented in the spirit of the behests of Great October, has been a source of inspiration for us.

The experience of transformations shows that our main task is the party's activity, the implementation of its leading role in the process of the important changes we have begun. The party must be the main motive force for restructuring.

We proceed on the basis, M. Jakes continued, that a new quality in society's development can only be achieved when the deepening of socialist democracy is based on a fundamental reform of the economy, in which the most important factor is people, people working with a high sense of responsibility and interest in the results of labor. That means it is necessary to expand autonomy and initiative, increase responsibility, and introduce self-management.

The process of acceleration, restructuring, and democratization cannot amount solely to the elimination of existing shortcomings or some improvement in the results achieved in the course of extensive development. It is a question of a revolutionary transition to intensive development, to the organic combination of socialism and the scientific and technical revolution, and to the attainment of a fundamentally new level of development of the socialist society in the interests of people and the strengthening of socialism's international prestige. This should be the basis of the activity of all party organs and organizations and all communists.

A "wait-and-see" attitude to restructuring can still be seen in some places. The view preached by some people that restructuring constitutes a "reform" which is "sent down from above" by order is a dangerous illusion which acts as a cover for inactivity and passivity. Restructuring affects everyone. It can only be implemented through the working people's joint efforts. This requires new approaches to the party's leading role and the style and methods of party work.

The working people's trust in the party and its leading role will only increase when the party is guided by Marxist-Leninist principles and gives a truthful assessment of existing realities. It must not be forgotten for a

moment that the unity of the party with the working class and all working people can only be achieved when people are convinced of the unity of word and deed.

The change in the form and methods of party work does not mean a weakening, but on the contrary, a strengthening of party influence on the processes taking place in society. The party must lead the working people and promote an increase in people's initiative, creative activeness, and responsibility.

The party must introduce a creative spirit into ideological and mass political work, and in debates and dialogues with working people it must not evade tricky questions.

Touching on questions of party building, M. Jakes noted that nearly two-thirds of party members, who now number 1,717,000, are workers, and more than 50 percent are employed directly in the sphere of material production. At the same time a lack of comprehensiveness, administrative methods, and an undervaluing of systematic educational work can be seen in the process of formation of party ranks. It is necessary to step up demands on party ranks and raise in the most principled way the question of the communists' activeness and personal example. That is a key problem directly connected with the party's unity, efficacy, and prestige. There can be no place for passivity and formalism in the CPCZ.

The restructuring of our socialist society and the party's work makes new demands on the selection, training, and placing of cadres. The most capable people, people with the necessary moral qualities who are the most well-trained in political and professional terms, should be appointed to leading posts. It is cadres like this that the party, the socialist state, and our entire society need now.

Today we wish once again to declare our determination to take the restructuring to its conclusion. This is a course to which there is no alternative, if we are to fully uncover and put into practice the potential and advantages of socialism. We are moving toward the same goals and by the same route as the CPSU, on the basis of alliance and cooperation with the USSR and the other socialist countries, the CPCZ Central Committee general secretary stressed in conclusion.

In the resolution adopted, the report approved the report of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium delivered by CPCZ Central Committee General Secretary M. Jakes, and instructed all party organs and organizations to be guided by its propositions in their activity.

The plenum set concrete tasks in improving the form and methods of party work with a view to further increasing the leading role of the CPCZ, deepening its ties with the masses, and increasing the working people's activeness and initiative and their contribution to implementing the restructuring.

The plenum adopted a provision whereby the posts of general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and first secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia Central Committee may be held for not more than two elected terms in succession. First secretaries of CPCZ obkoms and raykoms may hold their posts for not more than three elected terms in succession. The plenum resolved to ensure the necessary renewal of cadres at elections to all party organs and not to permit one individual to hold several leading posts concurrently.

The plenum instructed the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium to prepare for examination at the next CPCZ Central Committee plenum proposals on the creation of a CPCZ Central Committee commission for drafting the CPCZ program.

The plenum examined organizational questions. The plenum elected J. Fojtik and I. Janak CPCZ Central Committee Presidium members. J. Lenart, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, was elected Central Committee secretary and chairman of the CPCZ Central Committee National Economic Commission. M. Zavadil was elected candidate member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, and F. Hanus secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

The plenum released A. Kapek from his duties as member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium, and J. Havlin and J. Polednik from their duties as secretaries of the CPCZ Central Committee.

M. Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, delivered a concluding address at the plenum.

CSSR Ready To Discuss Chemical Weapons

*LD082201 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Prague April 8 TASS—The Government of Czechoslovakia is prepared to start without delay talks with the Governments of the GDR and the FRG on freeing themselves from chemical weapons or, respectively, preventing their development in the territories of those states as is proposed in the joint statement by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany. A statement to this effect was made by M. Pavel, head of the press department of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Government in an interview with a CETEKA correspondent. He noted that the Czechoslovak Government welcomes the preparedness of the GDR Government to start these talks.

Dobrynin, Others Depart for Prague Conference

*LD110807 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0735 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow, Apr 11 (TASS)—A CPSU delegation led by A.F. Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, left Moscow for Prague today to take part in a conference

of representatives of communist and workers parties to discuss the work of the magazine PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM.

The delegation consists of Yu.A. Sklyarov, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and head of the CPSU Central Committee Propaganda Department; V.V. Zagladin, CPSU Central Committee member and first deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and G.S. Otroumov, deputy head of a department of the CPSU CC.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by V.A. Medvedev, CPSU Central Committee secretary, and responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee.

Among the farewell party was J. Rehorek, ambassador of the CSSR in the USSR.

Group Arrives in Prague

*LD111012 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0945 GMT 11 Apr 88*

[Text] Prague, 11 Apr (TASS)—A CPSU delegation led by A.F. Dobrynin, CPSU Central Committee secretary, today arrived in the capital of Czechoslovakia to attend a conference of representatives of the communist and workers parties which will discuss the work of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM.

The members of the delegation are:

Yu. A. Sklyarov, CPSU Central Committee candidate member and head of the Propaganda Department of the CPSU Central Committee;

V.V. Zagladin, CPSU Central Committee member, first deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; and

G.S. Ostroumov, deputy head of a section of the CPSU Central Committee.

They were met at the airport by V. Bilak, member of the Presidium and of the CPCZ Central Committee secretary;

M. Stefanak, head of the section of international policy of the CPCZ Central Committee;

A.M. Subbotin, editor in chief of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM, and other officials.

In the welcoming party was M.N. Kuznetsov, USSR charge d'affaires in the CSSR.

Kulikov Presents Award to CSSR's Vaclavik
PM081049 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
1 Apr 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Award Presentation"]

[Text] Prague, 31 Mar—Today Army General Milan Vaclavik, CSSR minister of national defense, was awarded the Order of Lenin at the Soviet Embassy in the CSSR. He has been decorated for his great contribution to strengthening military comradeship between the USSR Armed Forces and the Czechoslovak People's Army and in connection with his 60th birthday.

Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact states Joint Armed Forces, presented the order.

Solidarity Urges 'Independent' 1 May Rallies
LD102020 Hamburg DPA in German 1831 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] Warsaw (DPA)—In Poland, the leadership of the banned trade union Solidarity has this year once again called for independent rallies on 1 May. In a statement by the union's executive commission handed to Western correspondents today, it is stressed that 1 May is for the workers a day of struggle for basic rights and trade union freedom, of protest against price increases, and against the destruction of independent social initiatives.

In the statement passed by the executive commission yesterday, a worsening of living conditions, an impoverishment of families, the housing shortage, and pollution of the environment are put down to the last 40 years of the "unchecked and monopolistic exercise of power" in Poland. Participation in the official may processions signified "participation in the celebration of state power," the statement says.

Ryzhkov-Messner Meeting Participants Listed
PM081453 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Mutual Understanding"]

[Excerpts] Z. Messner, PZPR Central Committee Politburo member and Polish Council of Ministers chairman, was in the Soviet Union on 5-6 April on a working visit.

Talks were held between N.I. Ryzhkov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Council of Ministers chairman, and Z. Messner. [passage omitted]

The talks were held in a cordial, comradely atmosphere. The following took part: On the Soviet side, Yu.D. Maslyukov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and USSR Gosplan chairman; A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of

Ministers; B.I. Gostev, USSR minister of finance; O.K. Rybakov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; A.I. Kachanov, USSR first deputy minister of foreign economic relations; V.P. Loginov, USSR deputy foreign minister; Yu.S. Moskovskiy, chairman of the board of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity; and V.I. Brovnikov, Soviet ambassador to Poland. On the Polish side, Z. Szalajda, Polish Council of Ministers deputy chairman; M. Holdakowski, chief of the PZPR Central Committee Socioeconomic Policy Department; F. Kubiczek, first deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers Planning Commission; B. Kulski, Polish deputy foreign minister; S. Dlugosz, Polish Council of Ministers Planning Commission deputy chairman; A. Zor, deputy minister in the Polish Council of Ministers; Z. Pakula, first deputy president of the Polish National Bank; W. Natorf, Polish ambassador to the Soviet Union; and other officials. [passage omitted]

Akhromeyev To Visit Poland 'First Half' of Apr
PM081015 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
8 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] In accordance with the accord reached Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, will make an official, friendly visit to Poland in the first half of April.

Medvedev Receives SFRY Ambassador Veres
LD081349 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1257 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 8 (TANJUG)—Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) Vadik Medvedev received today Yugoslavia's ambassador to the Soviet Union Milan Veres.

In the ensuing talk, they discussed further development of cooperation between the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and the CPSU and some international topics.

Bulgarian Seminar on Economic Accountability
PM081051 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for CPSU-BCP ties, a Soviet-Bulgarian seminar on problems of improving internal economic accountability at enterprises was held in Moscow 29-30 March.

Taking part in the seminar's work were senior officials from the CPSU Central Committee Economic Department, the BCP Central Committee Economic, Scientific, and Technical Policy Department, the Moscow Party Gorkom, and Moscow raykoms, leaders of ministries

and departments, scientists, and directors and party organization secretaries from a number of Soviet and Bulgarian industrial enterprises.

Reports were heard on the countries' experience in production and party work in the conditions of the transition from administrative to economic methods of economic activity. Discussions during the seminar raised topical problems concerning the introduction of full economic accountability at enterprises in various industrial sectors, and proposals were made on possible ways to solve them.

The participants in the seminar visited Moscow's I.A. Likhachev Automobile Plant and familiarized themselves with the "ZIL" Production Association's experience of work in conditions of economic accountability.

Romania's Ursu Meets Science Officials

AU091918 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1730 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow AGERPRES 9/4/1988—The first deputy chairman of Romania's National Committee for Science and Technology, Ion Ursu, met in Moscow with the leaderships of the USSR Academy of Science and the State Committee for Science and Technology.

In the spirit of the Romanian-Soviet summit decisions, the state and results of the Romanian-Soviet technical and scientific cooperation were examined and joint measures were agreed upon for the further intensification of that activity, for its higher efficiency, and for the growth of production specialization and cooperation in production.

The common wish was expressed for the deepening of the Romanian-Soviet cooperation in priority economic areas such as chemical engineering, computer technology, the complex automation of production, development of new materials, biotechnology, nuclear physics and technology, equipment construction.

Academician Ion Ursu met at Soviet research institutes with A.M. Prokhorov, president of the Physics Department of the USSR Academy of Science, a Nobel Prize winner, director of the General Physics Institute, and with other Soviet scientists and specialists.

West Europe

Further on Zaykov Visit to Finland for Jubilee

Gives Speech in Turku

*PM111155 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4*

[TASS report: "Developing Relations of Friendship and Trust"]

[Text] Turku, 8 Apr—The Soviet delegation headed by L.N. Zaykov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of

Moscow CPSU Gorkom, which is in Finland in connection with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, visited the city of Turku today.

En route, in the city of Salo, the delegation was familiarized with the activity of the "Nokia" company's enterprises, which specialize in the production of radio telephones ("Mobira") and television equipment ("Salora").

Particular attention was paid to questions of the further development of Soviet-Finnish cooperation in these promising spheres.

On its arrival, the delegation was met by P. Työjyvä, governor of Turku-Pori Province, and other officials.

L.N. Zaykov laid flowers at the V.I. Lenin memorial. This monument is a gift to the Finnish city from its Soviet twinned city—Leningrad.

Friendly conversations took place on the streets of Turku with city inhabitants.

The municipality gave a luncheon in honor of the Soviet delegation. City Mayor V. Loyttyjyvä cordially welcomed the delegation.

L.N. Zaykov then gave a speech in which he sincerely thanked the Turku provincial and municipal authorities for the warm and hearty reception and the cordial welcome accorded the Soviet delegation and the kind words to the Soviet people.

We received with unconcealable delight, he said, the invitation to visit Turku, the ancient capital of Finland, which has today become a major industrial and cultural center of your country.

It is of great interest for us to come into contact with the city's history and traditions and also with its life today. We, the members of the Soviet delegation, are filled with special feelings on your city's hospitable territory.

For Turku is one of the cities outside our country with which the name of V.I. Lenin has been inseparably linked. Our countries' peoples value highly its historic role in forming the foundations of Soviet-Finnish good-neighborliness and remember Lenin's behests to strengthen and develop relations of friendship and trust.

We see that the municipal authorities and Turku's inhabitants carefully cherish the memory of the founder of the Soviet state. A V.I. Lenin memorial has been erected here, which vividly illustrates this.

Turku is well known in the Soviet Union. It is renowned not only for its ancient castle and other sights. The city makes a weighty contribution to developing the multi-faceted cooperation between our countries and strengthening the friendship and trust between the Soviet and Finnish peoples.

Many enterprises in the city and province are our long-standing reliable partners. Vessels for the Soviet Union have been and are being constructed at the Turku shipyards. Your city produces a considerable proportion of the commodities which Finland supplies to our country. The high quality and reliability of this output demonstrate the talent and industry of the Finnish people and the citizens of Turku.

It is profoundly symbolic that Turku, together with Leningrad, pioneered such an important field as ties between twinned cities. The close contacts between Turku and the city on the Neva have become a tradition of long standing.

The ties of friendship between these cities are manifested in the "Leningrad Days" in Turku and the "Turku Days" in Leningrad and in reciprocal exchanges. Leningrad and Turku's good example has opened the way for the development of cooperation between other cities in our countries, and this is an important channel for relations between the Soviet and Finnish peoples.

The branch of the Finland-Soviet Union Society here is carrying out the responsible work of deepening and developing comprehensive contacts between our countries' peoples. Permit me to take this opportunity to cordially greet its leadership, activists, and members and thank them for their untiring and selfless activity.

While assessing what has been achieved on its merits, we can also see the potential which has, in our view, as yet not been fully tapped. Speaking about the economy and trade, favorable conditions have now been created to vigorously proceed to introduce into joint practice new forms of economic cooperation such as production specialization, cooperation, and the creation of joint enterprises.

There are also reserves in the sphere of the availability of information about one another and about events taking place in our countries. The mass media must, without fail, help us here.

Contacts between Finns and Soviet people and the acquisition of personal friends in both countries play a special role today. For our part, we are striving for this.

At this festive time when our countries are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 1948 treaty, we once again emphasize its basic importance for the development of Soviet-Finnish relations and the statesmanship and foresight of those statesmen who were able to effect a radical, irreversible shift toward good-neighborliness and mutual

trust. The principles and approaches enshrined in the treaty, through which our countries have achieved large-scale successes in all spheres of human relations, remain topical today, too.

This applies not only to bilateral relations. The treaty's international dimension lies in the fact that it demonstrated the potential and the prospects for developing truly equitable and mutually advantageous relations between large and small countries irrespective of socio-political systems. Therefore, we can rightfully call the treaty one of the first shoots of the new political thinking in the modern era.

In conclusion, the head of the Soviet delegation expressed the confidence that the relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the USSR and Finland and the ties with Turku will continue to develop for the good of the peoples of both countries. May the ties of friendship between the Soviet and Finnish people be strengthened.

L.N. Zaykov wished Turku's inhabitants and the people of Finland well-being and prosperity.

Tours Finnish Factories

*LD090824 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The visit of the Soviet delegation led by Comrade Zaykov to Finland has ended. The delegation has been in that country for the 40th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish friendship, cooperation and mutual aid treaty. Now over to our special correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent A. Krutov] Turku is one of the biggest industrial centers of southwestern Finland. Today the townspeople welcomed the Soviet delegation headed by Lev Nikloayevich Zaykov. Turku was a pioneer of the twinned-towns movement between Finland and the Soviet Union. This monument of Vladimir Ilich Lenin was a gift from Turku's twin town, Leningrad. The Soviet delegation brought flowers.

Lev Nikloayevich Zaykov acquainted himself with the present Finnish town, many of whose enterprises have old and close ties with our country, and chatted with its inhabitants.

We arrived at one of the factories of the Nokia firm little ahead of our delegation. [passage omitted]

The Soviet delegation was shown the work of the Nokia Salora television factory. [passage omitted]

You have just been looking over the Nokia television works, and you have also been to Moscow's Temp works. How do they compare?

[Zaykov] The point is that at this works there is very wide coproduction [kooperatsiya], both within the firm and with other firms for the supply of accessories, components, and so on. That gives an extra economic effect. As for quality, here each man works individually on his operation. They have automated, orderly control. They are not afraid to spend money on control or controllers. Sometimes we say that this is, as it were, auxiliary labor. Here, it is part of the main activity. As far as our works is concerned, when I was there, reconstruction was in progress. That works will be reconstructed, and will be as good as the television ovrks we have just been looking at. I have proposed to the Nokia management that we cooperate, not just on the production of television sets and increased coproduction, but for all the other products, too. I consider that it would be mutually beneficial. It would benefit both Nokia and our firms. [end recording]

Met by Slyunkov on Return

LD090825 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" Newscast]

[Text] The delegation led by Comrade Zaykov returned to Moscow today. It was met at the airport by Comrade Slyunkov and other officials. Finnish Ambassador to the USSR Karhilo was in the welcoming party.

More on Anniversary of Finland Amity Accord

Finnish Leader Ahde Speaks

LD052044 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT
5 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS—Soviet-Finnish relations draw vivifying strength from the concurrence of the basic aspirations of the Soviet and Finnish peoples for peace and cooperation.

This was emphasized here today at a meeting of representatives of the working people of the capital to mark the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Soviet Union and Finland.

In the presidium of the meeting were Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, representatives of party, local-government and public organizations as well as a Finnish delegation led by Matti Ahde, speaker of the Finnish parliament, and Aarno Karhilo, the ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the USSR.

Speakers pointed out that the 1948 treaty became a symbol of relations of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems and of an effective mechanism of friendship, trust and all-round cooperation between the

peoples of the two countries. In many aspects of economic cooperation the two states acted as pioneers, introducing to joint practice new cooperation forms which later on became wide-spread in the world.

Matti Ahde said the present-day Finnish-Soviet relations are exemplary at all levels. Active contacts are maintained between the leaders, parliaments and governments of the two countries, and the ties between public organizations are close.

The speaker of the Finnish parliament emphasized the great importance of the treaty for keeping stability in northern Europe. He stated that people in Finland supported the Soviet Union's initiatives set out in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Murmansk.

A week of Soviet-Finnish friendship began in the Soviet Union on the same day. Social functions and meetings of friendship will be held in many cities, and exhibitions will open there.

Demichev Meets With Visitors

PM081415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Friendship"]

[Text] The viability of good-neighborliness between the USSR and Finland offers convincing proof of the historical value and abiding importance of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the two countries. The treaty paved the way for the development of fundamentally new relations between states with different social systems, justifiably perceived as an example of peaceful coexistence. This was emphasized in Moscow on 5 April during a meeting between P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and a Finnish delegation headed by Speaker of Parliament M. Ahde. It arrived in our country for the celebration of the 1948 Treaty's 40th anniversary.

Topical questions of Soviet-Finnish relations and some aspects of the international situation were discussed in an atmosphere of sincere friendship and complete mutual understanding. P.N. Demichev and M. Ahde expressed gratification at the development of interparliamentary dialogue between the two states, which is becoming increasingly noticeable in the overall totality of their relations. They noted the contribution made by representatives of the two countries' legislative organs to the work on the implementation of initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Murmansk in October of last year and aimed at diminishing military confrontation in the north and creating a zone of peace and fruitful cooperation in that region. The Finnish side emphasized the special importance of the Murmansk initiatives for Finland's people.

At the delegation's request, P.N. Demichev spoke of the restructuring, democratization, and renewal of all aspects of society's life now under way in the Soviet Union and of the participation of soviet organs and the USSR Supreme Soviet in this work.

Tolkunov Receives Ahde

LD062131 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT
6 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 6 TASS—Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, met today with the speaker of the Finnish parliament, Matti Ahde, who is heading a Finnish delegation to celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance.

The sides pointed out in their conversation, held in a friendly atmosphere, that the 1948 treaty, laying fundamental principles of relations between states with different social systems, opened broad opportunities for the further development of all-round interaction between the two countries, including in parliaments.

Ahde handed over to Tolkunov a copy of the reply message from the Finnish parliament and its Foreign Affairs Commission to the address from the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the two houses of the USSR Supreme Soviet to the parliaments and parliamentarians of northern European countries, the United States and Canada.

The message said that the Finnish parliamentarians attached much importance to questions of safeguarding security, cooperation and environmental protection in the northern and Arctic regions.

They stressed the significance of the initiatives advanced by the leaders of Finland and the Soviet Union.

They positively assessed the proposal of the Soviet parliamentary commissions of foreign affairs for convening a meeting to discuss, specifically, problems of ecological protection of the Arctic and also probably issues of promoting security and confidence in this region.

The Finnish deputies are ready to take part in the meeting and seriously discuss questions connected with recommendations to the governments of the countries concerned with a view to securing advancement on all major problems.

The ambassador of Finland of the Soviet Union, Aarno Karhilo, took part in the conversation.

Gusev Addresses Meeting

PM111147 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Festive Meeting"]

[Excerpts] Soviet-Finnish relations draw vital strength from the coincidence of the Soviet and Finnish peoples' fundamental aspirations for peace and cooperation and from the realization of the vital importance of the policy of good-neighborliness by the state leadership and broad public circles in both countries. This was emphasized in Moscow on 5 April at a festive meeting of representatives of the capital's public devoted to the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Finland. [passage omitted]

V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, noted in his report that the 1948 Treaty became a symbol of relations of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems and an effective mechanism of the friendship, trust, and all-around cooperation between the peoples of both countries. The high level of trade and economic cooperation gives grounds for speaking of it as the material base of our good-neighborliness. In many aspects of economic collaboration, the two states have played the role of trailblazers by introducing new forms of cooperation in joint practice which later spread around the world. The restructuring of the economic mechanism in the USSR, improvement of Soviet organizations' foreign economic activity, and creation of joint enterprises are bound to help strengthen trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Vorotnikov Attends Reception

PM071323 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 88
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "On Anniversary"]

[Text] A. Karhilo, Finnish ambassador to the USSR, held a reception on 6 April to mark the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid Between Finland and the Soviet Union.

The reception was attended by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; V.S. Shevchenko, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations, and military leaders. A Finnish delegation headed by M. Ahde, speaker of the parliament, attended.

Observers Attend Finnish Military Exercises

LD071301 Moscow TASS in English 1254 GMT
7 Apr 88

[Text] Helsinki April 7 TASS—Finland's defense forces are holding a winter exercise in central Lapland, which is aimed at mastering interaction between different units.

The exercise, involving 13,000 servicemen and 2,000 transportation vehicles, is being attended by foreign military observers, including those from the Soviet Union and 18 other countries which have signed the Helsinki Final Act.

Norwegian Foreign Policy Committee Visits Moscow

Gromyko Receives Willoch

LD081950 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1650 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr (TASS)—Today in the Kremlin A.A. Gromyko received a delegation from the Foreign Policy and Constitutional Committee of the Norwegian Storting led by Chairman of the committee Kare Willoch, prominent representative of the Conservative Party and the country's former prime minister. The delegation is composed of deputies from: the Norwegian Labor Party, the Christian People's Party, the Center Party, and the Socialist Party of the Left. Together with the guests was the Norwegian ambassador to the USSR, Olav Bucher-Johannessen.

At the beginning of the conversation K. Willoch said that the aim of the delegation's visit was to receive first-hand information about the Soviet Union's stance on matters relating to security and disarmament, as well as about life in the country in the period of restructuring. This is of great interest to the Foreign Policy and Constitutional Committee of the Storting. Alongside this, the Norwegians know Soviet foreign policy is closely linked with the internal reforms in the Soviet state.

A.A. Gromyko answered questions from the Norwegian guests.

In particular regarding the Soviet-U.S. disarmament talks, he stated that the treaty to scrap intermediate- and shorter-range missiles signed in Washington is a major historic event. It has great significance for both the development of bilateral links between the USSR and the United States and for international life as a whole. One can say that nuclear disarmament is a choice made by the peoples and to which politicians have responded in this instance. Both sides still have to ratify this treaty; and the international public is following the process of ratification underway at present in both the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress with great interest.

However, the treaty we are talking about is only one step on the long road of nuclear disarmament. Our ideal, said A.A. Gromyko on behalf of the Soviet people, is a nonnuclear world. We will do all possible for mankind to reach that aim.

Talks on limiting strategic offensive weapons are proceeding in a complex fashion in Geneva, although common approaches on certain issues are being discovered. The Soviet Union is in favor of reaching an accord and concluding another, still more important, treaty than that already signed. But for the moment it is hard to tell what the results of the talks will be.

It is well-known what attention has been and is being given to the arms control problem. M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, has already spoken of this several times: If there is determination and a will from the sides, it is possible to solve any problem of verification [kontrol].

The Soviet Union—like its allies, the Warsaw Treaty countries—said A.A. Gromyko, will do all it can to move toward new accords on disarmament issues. The situation in the world is such that other, less major countries, could be persistent and influence those on whom solving this disarmament problem mainly depends. We have in mind both those countries which belong to the military groupings and those which are nonaligned. In our view, Norway in particular can make a contribution to the disarmament process.

The Norwegian side voiced the well-known thesis, which often appears in the West, that the Soviet Union allegedly has superiority over the United States in conventional armaments in Europe.

In response to this, A.A. Gromyko observed that it is better to speak about asymmetry in armed forces. This exists, but in one respect it is to the advantage of the USSR and in another respect to the advantage of the United States. Furthermore, this applies not only to individual countries but also to military groupings of countries.

But, it is the Soviet Union which is calling for talks on all questions, including those which are connected both with the removal of asymmetry and with the reduction of conventional arms altogether. It is essential for us seriously to set about discussing this problem. A solution to it is not going to fall out of the skies of its own accord. It has to be discussed and solved by people themselves. Only painstaking talks on each of the types of weapons will make it possible to reach some kind of agreement. We are willing to have them, but the United States, unfortunately, is not. That is how things stand in reality.

A.A. Gromyko recalled that there can be different kinds of talks. It is possible to discuss the problem as a whole, and it is possible to break it down into parts and seek

understandings on each subject without making it conditional upon the solution of other tasks. Everywhere there has to be common sense and objectivity in the approach to examining the questions. However, history, including the most recent history, suggests that some politicians are not always guided by this.

At the request of the visitors, the relations of the Soviet Union with the countries of Asia were described. This is a region where states are situated which have great weight and considerable importance in present-day international life: the PRC, India, and Japan. Also situated here are socialist countries like the Mongolian People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the people's Republic of Kampuchea. We pay great attention to links with such countries as the Philippines and Indonesia. Overall, we try to maintain good relations with all the countries of this enormous region of the world.

A.A. Gromyko devoted the final part of the conversation to the issue touched upon at the outset by K. Willoch: the link between the Soviet Union's foreign and domestic policy.

The whole of Soviet society is on the move in connection with restructuring, said A.A. Gromyko. This can be felt in the sphere of politics, as well as in that of economics and culture and in the social sphere. In spite of the fact that there are still those who cling to the old style and methods of work, the Soviet people welcome restructuring and clearly understand its aims. These aims are to raise the country's economy, introduce more widely the achievements of science and technology, improve the people's living and working conditions, solve the problem of better food and housing, raise the level of culture, and fundamentally improve the system of public instruction and education. Restructuring also means the development and enrichment of socialist democracy, glasnost, and the formation of new thinking.

It is possible that some people abroad are shrugging their shoulders and asking: Will they manage everything they have started in the Soviet Union? We Soviet Communists—and with us, the people as a whole—say we will: We are up to this vast and difficult affair.

In these conditions it is permissible to ask: Can a country with such objectives in the sphere of domestic policy and domestic life have any plans other than peaceful ones in the sphere of foreign policy? Of course, it cannot. From the first days of the revolution we condemned war. We also condemn it today. Naturally, in such conditions we are in favor of developing and improving relations between all countries in all ways, including those between our countries—The Soviet Union and Norway.

K. Willoch: Yes. That is precisely the impression we have gained from the results of this trip.

A.A. Gromyko: Even geography helps this. History also helps it.

Taking part in the conversation were P.N. Demichev, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium first deputy chairman, and other officials.

Willoch News Conference

LD081432 Moscow TASS in English 1341 GMT
8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The prospects of reforms in the Soviet Union are very promising not only for the USSR but also for the whole world, said Kare Willoch, chairman of the Foreign Policy and Constitutional Committee of Norway's Storting (parliament). He heads a delegation of the committee that is visiting in the USSR at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet and held a press conference here today for Soviet and foreign journalists.

"Our committee", Kare Willoch said, "is preparing a report which will serve as a basis for Norway's policy in the field of disarmament, security and international relations. In this connection we are extremely interested in the interconnection between the Soviet foreign policy and the internal processes in the USSR".

Sharing his impressions of his meetings with Soviet representatives the Norwegian politician said that the USSR's striving to continue the process of perestroika and glasnost creates a more favourable climate for disarmament. He spoke highly of the Soviet-American INF Treaty, calling it the first step which should be followed by new ones in the field of disarmament. The next steps along this road are reduction of strategic arms, prohibition of chemical weapons and reductions of conventional armaments, he said.

Questions of bilateral relations were also discussed in the Soviet capital. In particular the delimitation of economic zones in the Barents Sea was discussed.

The head of the delegation expressed gratitude for the warm reception accorded the members of the delegation in the Soviet Union and specially noted the open nature of the discussions.

More on Willoch Remarks

LD091753 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The delegation of the Norwegian Storting—parliament—today held a news conference in Moscow. Yuriy Rostov reports:

It was emphasized at the news conference that the talks that had just been held had been open and honest. Kare Willoch, chairman of the Foreign Policy and Constitutional Committee of the Storting, said the main thing that had interested the Norwegian delegation was the interaction of the domestic and foreign policy of the Soviet Union. Restructuring and glasnost, Willoch said, intensify the Soviet Union's desire to reduce military spending and create the basis for a peaceful course. Kare Willoch is a former Norwegian Prime Minister. He represents the Conservative Party, whose attitude to the Soviet Union is characterized by a certain wariness.

[Begin recording] [Rostov] What facts, in your view, have contributed to the thaw in Soviet-Norwegian relations?

[Willoch in English with superimposed Russian translation] I think the greater openness of Soviet policy and the desire for disarmament—the readiness for constructive initiatives. We consider the INF Treaty very important, and we hope a treaty on a 50 percent reduction of strategic arms will also be signed.

[Rostov] The Soviet Union's share in trade with Norway is a mere 3 percent. Is progress possible in this area?

[Willoch] Joint projects for the utilization of natural resources are possible. The relevant Soviet proposals concerning the Kola Peninsula are interesting. You can also sell us your products. But the goods must be of high quality.

[Rostov] Improvement is necessary, of course, but not only on our part. Norwegian goods, after all, are the most expensive in Western Europe!

[Willoch] Norway has to increase its efficiency, too. In general, both countries want to trade, and an expansion of trade is realistic. [end recording]

Delegation Departs

LD091546 Moscow TASS in English 0844 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—The delegation of the Foreign Policy and Constitution Committee of the Norwegian Storting led by Kare Willoch, the committee's chairman, left Moscow today.

The guests stayed in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the chamber of the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament).

Gromyko Talks With Italian Delegation

LD092159 Moscow TASS in English 2134 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Andrey Gromyko, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme

Soviet, received in the Kremlin today a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy's Parliament, led by the Commission Chairman Flaminio Piccoli.

The delegation includes deputy commission chairman, one of the prominent leaders of the Italian and international Communist movement, chairman of the Control Commission of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party Giancarlo Pajetta, deputy commission chairman, representative of the Socialist Party, member of the Council of the West European Union Margherita Boniver, commission members—Gerolamo Pellicano (the Republican party), Ettore Masina (a left independent), Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (the Christian Democratic Party), Massimo Teodori (a European federalist), and others. Present at the meeting, along with the delegation, was Italy's Ambassador in the USSR Sergio Romano and Counsellor of the Embassy Massimo Bistocchi.

At the beginning of the talk, Flaminio Piccoli has said on behalf of the delegation that the delegation's visit to the Soviet Union has been prompted, above all, by the desire to hear the Soviet leadership's assessment of the new political course—perestroika.

Andrey Gromyko dwelt on profound processes which are under way in the USSR. Fundamental changes are being witnessed in the economy—industry, agriculture, in the social sphere. Transformations are under way in culture and science. Radical reforms are being carried out in public education. The aim of all changes is to see to it that the people should live better. Man, his needs and his interests are of paramount importance.

We are confident that the perestroika programme will be fulfilled. All decisions of our party and the state are permeated by the spirit of optimism. Among our cadres one may, certainly, still see people who have failed to get into the right stride, and even treat transformations with prejudice. But there will be few and few of them, as time goes by. This is also proved by the experience.

It would be naive to assert that once the decision has been taken, it will right away be followed by the result. We know that we are also in for many difficulties on the way of implementation of the projected plans. But one should like to underline once again—the party, the people as a whole are confident that the tasks set will be accomplished.

Questions are sometimes raised in the West, including Italy: Won't the Soviet Union swing off the road of socialism? Won't it follow the path of private enterprise, free market economy, party pluralism, etc?

We have a clear-cut answer to all these questions: The Soviet Union has been, is and will be a socialist state. It will follow the road it chose in October 1917. Our people do not see any other way of development. Mikhail Gorbachev is known to have repeatedly spoken of that.

This is the opinion of the whole party.

Stating the tasks of the current perestroika stage in the USSR, Andrey Gromyko underlined the Soviet people's firm determination to enhance the role of the soviets, to lend a universal character to democratization, to comprehensively develop glasnost which will enable to guarantee the irreversibility of deep processes which have begun in society.

Natural and organic is the link between the country's home tasks and the peaceful foreign policy programme of the Soviet state. The USSR is ready to cooperate with all states, both in the East and the West, in the struggle for peace and for removal of the threat of war.

M. Boniver asked Andrey Gromyko to convey some oral wish to the Italians and the West Europeans who live in the so-called "medium-size and small" states, affiliated with the European Economic Community (EEC).

In reply Andrey Gromyko has said that the Soviet Union treats all countries with profound respect. As to the countries mentioned by the Italian guest, they could do much for solving the nuclear disarmament problem through their political influence on the relevant states. This refers also to Italy.

Negotiations on nuclear disarmament are so far conducted only by the USSR and USA. They signed the Treaty on the Elimination of the Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, they are discussing in Geneva a possibility of concluding the new treaty on a 50 percent reduction of strategic offensive armaments. In these conditions, other countries, including West European ones, guided by the supreme interests of their peoples and the interests of peace, could use their weight for the benefit of peace. The more active they are, the better it will be for the cause of nuclear disarmament, and for the cause of peace as a whole.

He also noted that economic and trade relations with Italy had always been appreciated and high opinion of Italian industrial products had been expressed in the Soviet Union. The USSR intends to continue further developing its relations with Italy, and if the partners have a reciprocal desire, this will be only greeted by the Soviet side.

We are doing the utmost also for the development of economic relations with other West European states. This refers both to every country separately and the

whole of the EEC which was mentioned by the delegation. For many years we have been promoting the establishment of direct EEC-CMEA relations. It looks as if things are moving in this respect.

We stand for development in every way of not only economic but also political and cultural relations with all European countries.

O.L. Scalfaro. How should one understand perestroika in the Soviet Union: Is it something new in all respects or the return to the sources from which your state started?

A. Gromyko. It maybe said that it is neither, if one is to understand literally the question raised. By its content and trend of development the socialist state is and will be socialist.

Everything which hampered and hampers the development of the country should meanwhile be discarded. Our society has entered the period of revolutionary renewal of life, based on the Leninist principles. In a certain sense in internal affairs we are returning to the sources, to Lenin, we are reading anew his works and we are putting to the practical plane what he bequeathed to us—development and enrichment of democracy. And this implies broad involvement of the masses to practical solution of perestroika tasks. We now recall that Lenin invariably maintained links with the people and received delegates—workers and peasants who in conversations with him raised questions of great state and social significance.

But we are not afraid of discarding everything which is obsolete and which has compromised itself, i.e. command-and-administer methods, bureaucratism, bureaucratic methods of management, violation of legality. We stick to what is strengthening and continue strengthening socialism.

M. Toedori raised the question of "human rights" in the Soviet Union, of which some mass media in the West continue writing.

This question is not discomforting to the Soviet people, said Andrey Gromyko. Our country even suggested that an international conference on humanitarian problems be held in Moscow to discuss the state of affairs in the sphere of human rights in different countries. Though much time has already passed, some states failed to give a positive reply to the Soviet Union's proposal. Who in this case is afraid of discussing this question?

If one is to take such a concrete case from that sphere, as family reunion, the Soviet Union does not allow to leave the country only to the persons who ought not to do so on considerations of state security. And what state in the world acts otherwise in this case?

Speaking on problems of tourism, G. Pellicano has set forth concrete considerations on the development of exchanges which were supported from the Soviet side.

E. Masina raised the question of regional conflicts and said that, as he sees it, not all of them are the result of the internal policy of countries alone.

Andrey Gromyko fully agreed with that view. In many areas, he said, regional conflicts are the result of interference from outside. This is the case in the south of Africa, in Central America, in the Middle East. This is linked, as a rule, with gross violation of the U.N. Charter and other international norms. The Soviet Union also firmly denounces the genocide policy being conducted by the ruling circles of the Republic of South Africa, grossly violating elementary international principles of humanism.

The USSR is siding with the Arab peoples, including the Arab people of Palestine who are fighting against Israel's aggression, and for their legitimate rights. The idea of an international conference on the Middle East is supported by almost the whole world. It is blocked only by the United States and Israel.

The head of the Italian delegation said that his country had also declared in favour of the conference.

In conclusion the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet underlined that the Soviet people and the Soviet leadership see big vistas for cooperation between the USSR and Italy. And the visit of the parliamentary delegation is being assessed as a major landmark on the road of development of Soviet-Italian relations.

Dobrynin Receives Group

*PM111019 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 April 88 Morning Edition p 4*

[TASS report under heading "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] A delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament led by Committee Chairman Flaminio Piccoli arrived in Moscow on 8 April at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Talks were held in the Kremlin on the same day between the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. Taking part in the conversation on the Italian side were Deputies O.L. Scalfaro, G.C. Pajetta, A.M. Serafini, M. Boniver, M. Tremaglia, E. Masina, G. Pellicano, M. Teodori, and

Italian Ambassador to the USSR S. Romano; on the Soviet side—Deputies V.V. Zagladin, Ye.M. Primakov, V.I. Fedosov, and V.N. Lobov.

Welcoming the Italian parliamentarians, A.F. Dobrynin emphasized the great importance of Soviet-Italian parliamentary ties for the development of the entire complex of relations between the USSR and Italy and for the creation of a favorable political climate in Europe. Both sides expressed gratification with the state of parliamentary ties between the USSR and Italy.

F. Piccoli and other members of the Italian parliamentary delegation spoke of the profound interest caused in Italy and other Western countries by the processes of restructuring in the USSR and by the Soviet Union's foreign policy initiatives. The changes in the USSR assist the deepening of mutual trust and cooperation between East and West. The guests asked numerous questions, which were answered in detail. The Soviet side stressed the dialectical linkage between restructuring within the country and the new USSR foreign policy concept.

In discussing key international issues main attention was devoted to disarmament problems, Soviet-American relations, to questions pertaining to security and cooperation in Europe and the Middle East situation.

Over the past 12-18 months, the general political atmosphere in the world has considerably changed, Anatoliy Dobrynin stressed. A real process of improvement of the international situation has started. There has been no breakthrough yet, but the start for it has been marked.

The Italian MPs were briefed on the Soviet Union's stand on all the disarmament issues. F. Piccoli and other Italian MPs reaffirmed Italy's known stand for the development of East-West dialogue, relations between the USSR and the USA, progress at the talks of disarmament issues, including a cut in conventional weapons.

In discussing the situation in Europe, profound interest was placed on record of both Soviet and Italian MPs in the development of the all-European process. It was said that Europe can play a more constructive role in the resolution of such problems as nuclear disarmament, East-West relations, the North-South dialogue and the Middle East conflict.

It was stressed that the sole way towards resolving the Middle East conflict is that of a political settlement whose most important stage should be the holding of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO.

The head of the Soviet delegation set forth the Soviet Union's stand on Afghanistan and pointed out the special significance of the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah on April 7 for the resolution of the Afghanistan issue.

A dinner was given on behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commissions on the occasion of the Italian parliamentarians' visit; A.F. Dobrynin and F. Piccoli exchanged greetings.

NATO Commander's Visit to Spain Viewed

*LD102048 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles gave a powerful impulse to the processes of disarmament and detente on the European Continent. The idea of a common European home is becoming ever more popular. But NATO circles are trying to insert a militaristic component into this process. For the first time General Galvin, the new commander of NATO Armed Forces in Europe, has made a trip to Spain. Here is our Madrid correspondent, Valentin Gorkayev:

[Gorkayev] General Galvin's visit was awaited here, I would say, with tense expectancy. The general obstinately defends the dogma of nuclear deterrent in Europe, and the increase of conventional weapons here, in particular on NATO's southern flank. And so this general is arriving in a country which has only just achieved a cut in the U.S. military presence, and indeed at a moment when NATO is actively discussing the degree of Spain's participation in the bloc. In accordance with the 1986 referendum, Spain is not a part of NATO's military structure. Although the NATO Council revoked [as heard] the Spanish proposals on the question, their concrete implementation leaves a lot of room for putting pressure on the country. For example, the Spaniards intend to defend their territory and air space themselves. General Galvin immediately recommended the modernization of the Spanish Army's weapons. The greatest pressure can be put on Spain by its proposal to offer its territory as a NATO rear base, where military stores will be set up and where U.S. troops can land if there is a crisis. What infrastructure will be needed for this? New military bases. How many military stores? Many questions arise. All of this is being discussed at a time when the process of disarmament has started in Europe, and as most Europeans hope, it must not be limited to the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, but be extended to other kinds of weapons, too.

The near future will show how far General Galvin succeeded in his task, which Spanish observers believe was to speed up Spain's integration into NATO.

U.S. 'Exasperated' by Greek Stance on Bases

*LD111151 Moscow TASS in English 1058 GMT
11 Apr 88*

[Text] Athens April 11 TASS—BY TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev:

The next, already the fifth, round of the Greek-American talks on the future of the U.S. military bases in Greece is due to open this week.

The four preceding rounds of the talks, which are held at the Greek Foreign Ministry behind closed doors, have not, if one is to judge by the press commentaries and short official communiques, brought about a drawing closer of the stands of the sides. The Greek delegation (the talks are held at expert level) insists that the question of the bases be linked with ensuring the supreme national interests of Greece, i.e. considering the involved problems of its differences with Turkey. The USA categorically refuses to do so. The Greek side has not given up either its promise that a new agreement with the USA, should it be reached, be put up for discussion in a national referendum.

The treaty between Greece and the USA, within whose framework American military facilities are stationed in the territory of Greece, is due to expire late this year. Under the terms of the treaty, after it expires, the U.S. bases should be withdrawn from that country. Therefore, the closer the end of the year draws and the more the talks are protracted, the greater impatience they overseas are beginning to display. In recent weeks Athens was literally stormed by U.S. emissaries. Among the visitors here was Rozanne Ridgway, U.S. assistant secretary of state, James McGovern, undersecretary of the Air Force, and an influential congressman. As the local press noted, all of them raised the question of the bases in some or other form. The U.S. side is persistently trying to use the proposition that the current improvement of Greek-Turkish relations should make Greece withdraw its demand for a linkage of the talks on the bases with the country's supreme national interests. Yet, judging by the latest statement of Greek political figures, the Greek side so far does not wish to do so.

Washington exasperated by the protraction of the talks on the bases has started to exert open pressure to bear on Athens. This was precisely the assessment given here of the appearance of a report in the USA from the State Department to Congress in which, as was already reported, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu is pictured as a...victim of Soviet propaganda. The Americans claim that speaking in parliament in 1978 the current head of the government allegedly used a "false statement on the U.S. stand on the Greek-Turkish problems, dished to it by Soviet counter-propaganda."

The statement by a spokesman for the Greek Government asks, with good reason, why even if the USA had this information, it is reporting on it only now, ten years later? The newspapers openly say that the point at issue is a fresh attempt of Washington's blackmail at the height of the complicated, difficult talks on the bases.

Latin America & Caribbean

U.S. Declares 'National Emergency' Over Panama *LD090628 Moscow TASS in English 0606 GMT 9 Apr 88*

[Text] Washington April 9 TASS—President Reagan on Friday declared “a national emergency” in relations with Panama, invoking the 1977 law which was used in the past to justify discriminatory measures against Nicaragua and Iran.

At the same time Reagan signed an executive order “to increase economic pressure” on the current government in Panama. The President’s measures include blocking assets of the Government of Panama in the United States, prohibiting payments to it by all people and organizations in the United States and prohibiting payments by all U.S. people and organizations in Panama including U.S. branches and subsidiaries. From now on all payments due to the Government of Panama will have to be made to a special account opened at the New York bank in the name of former Panamanian President Arturo Delvalle.

High-ranking administration officials declared in Santa Barbara, California, where Reagan is currently on rest, that the USA continued to support Delvalle and considered him to be the legitimate president of Panama.

Marlin Fitzwater, assistant to the President for press relations, said in a written statement in Santa Barbara that the new measures took effect immediately. The emergency act provides for a large fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years. Marlin Fitzwater also said that the 1977 Emergency Act was available to the President to deal with an “unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.”

'Undeclared War' Noted

*LD091539 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[“Panama—United States Steps Up Pressure”—TASS headline]

[Text] Panama City April 9 TASS—TASS correspondent V. Golenkov reports:

The U.S. undeclared war against Panama will not scare the Panamanian people who will rally even closer around the National Defence Forces and are ready to give a resolute rebuff to aggressive encroachments of Washington, said Guillermo Vong, head of the Panamanian military intelligence service. He spoke here at a rally sponsored by the representative mass organization United People's Front.

Washington dispatches additional Army units and sophisticated military hardware to the Panama Canal Zone, pointed out G. Vong. The U.S. helicopter carrier Okinawa is 30 miles off the Panamanian coast. All this is graphic evidence of crude military pressure put by the United States on Panama, which is accompanied by stiff economic sanctions. If an armed aggression is launched against the Republic, noted G. Vong, “the U.S. troops will have to fight for every inch of Panamanian soil, for every house.”

The forming of “patriotic battalions” is going on in Panama. This is how people call detachments of volunteers who undergo military training under the guidance of instructors of the National Defence Forces so as to rise in defence of their homeland in case of U.S. armed intervention. Apart from young people, all those who can hold arms join these battalions.

According to Western news agencies, the United States held war games on April 8 at the entrance to the Panama Canal in the area of Gatun Locks, off the Atlantic Coast. Marines and 14 helicopter gunships participated in them. The war games were aimed at training to defend the canal from a possible attack of “enemy forces.”

According to the local press and radio, the provocative actions by the U.S. military are being held in preparation for a direct aggression by Washington against Panama, which will be similar to the U.S. intervention in Grenada.

In an interview with ABC, General Noriega, commander-in-chief of the National Defence Forces, called the new measures of the United States putting psychological and economic pressure on Panama, an attempt “to bring the country to its knees.” However, he said, the Panamanian people will not shed their dignity and will be able, after overcoming all this, to gain strength again.

U.S. Ready for 'Intervention'

*LD081412 Moscow TASS in English 1332 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[“Growing American Threat to Panama”—TASS headline]

[Text] Panama City April 8 TASS—Special correspondent V. Golenkov writes:

Every day starting this week, heavy Galaxy military transport planes covered with camouflage paint land at the U.S. Howard Air Base. They are bringing new troops and military hardware, including helicopters, for the U.S. Southern Command from Fort Bragg in North Carolina. As a result, there are already 13,000 American troops on Panamanian soil and their number is growing.

In the opinion of the local press preparations are being openly conducted for a direct U.S. armed intervention in Panama. In keeping with the experience of the American war in Vietnam the main role will be given to helicopters and napalm, the newspaper EL MATUTINO writes.

A statement published here by the ruling Revolutionary Democratic Party says that the U.S. policy in respect of Panama contradicts elementary norms of international law, runs counter to the Charters of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States and also rudely flouts the treaty between the two countries on the Panama Canal.

Neither are the provocations by the internal reaction ceasing. As reported by the newspaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, the former President Delvalle, who was deposed by the Panamanian parliament, has again urged the United States to overthrow by force of arms the present government and the commander of the National Defence Forces General Noriega. Since Washington continue to recognise him as the "lawful head of the Panamanian state" Delvalle threatened to "formally resign" if the United States does not intervene in Panama in the coming week.

Meantime the right-wing opposition in Panama refuses to conduct talks with the government and the parties supporting it. In response to the appeal by the President of Panama Manuel Solis Palma to conduct a political dialogue through the mediation of Archbishop Marcos Gregoria McGrath the leaders of the opposition said they would consent to a dialogue only after General Noriega's resignation and departure from the country. Thereby they continue to rule out the possibility of a political settlement of the crisis in the country and bank on direct American intervention.

Commentary on Military Buildup
PA082021 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress
in Spanish 0130 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Mass organizations in Panama have urged the government to form defense battalions so the constitutional crisis can be extended to the entire population, who feel that the defense of sovereignty is the duty of all the country's patriots.

According to the FDP [Panama Defense Forces], hundreds of Panamanians have already passed introductory military training courses. It must be said that this is the best evidence of the Panamanian people's feelings, as they are targets of a clear campaign of slander by Washington. Under the pretext of threats to so-called U.S. state interests, U.S. authorities are transferring large military contingents to the Canal Zone. Simultaneously with the military pressures and economic measures aimed at suffocating Panama, there are rumors of a total economic boycott against the country.

During the past few weeks in the United States as well as Latin American countries, there have been rumors that among the operations planned by the special U.S. forces is the kidnapping of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP. Last weekend this was published by the newspaper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. This newspaper [words indistinct] because it could not establish if this was true or not. Government officials reiterated that this issue was discussed at a meeting held on Thursday at the White House, upon a request from Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, but a final decision was not made. This, of course, creates the hope that the adventurous plan will be reconsidered; however, it has been reported that Yankee commandos trained for kidnap missions arrived in the canal area aboard the helicopter carrier "Okinawa." The Panamanian press also warns that Arthur Davis, U.S. ambassador to Panama, and John Maisto, director of the CIA corps in Panama, discussed with several competent individuals the possible number of casualties that would result from a military action against the country, another [word indistinct] of the imperial mentality. This is how U.S. anti-Panamanian policies are characterized in Panama. Obviously the effort to kidnap Noriega could not be characterized as anything but political brigandage, if it were really to happen. It makes one [word indistinct] and indignant to think they are seriously discussing the possible casualties that could emerge from such an operation. Everything has been considered. Furthermore, the U.S. media have reported that the CIA was planning to kidnap Noriega during a visit he had planned to Costa Rica. I would also like to point out another characteristic trait. During the past few years, the U.S. public has been shown films of all types of supermen, types like the much vaunted Rambo. With singular ease, such supermen worked in several countries of the world, fulfilling their bosses' orders [words indistinct] government officials in the United States decided to take these audacious adventures from films and bring them to life.

Meanwhile, today there are rules for international relations, which are recognized by the civilized world, and to violate them in this time of [words indistinct] and interdependence is to subject peace on earth to serious dangers. Some years ago Pentagon strategists created a concept of neoglobalism that gave the United States the right to intervene in any corner of the world. Such a concept constitutes a threat to liberty and democracy. Washington's anti-Panamanian policies offer the entire world an example of that truly disgusting neoglobalism.

Envoy on Continuing Arms Shipments to Nicaragua
PA102328 Paris AFP in Spanish 2207 GMT
10 Apr 88

[Text] San Jose, 10 Apr (AFP)—Vadim Leontiyevich, the Soviet ambassador to Costa Rica, has told Costa Rican President Oscar Arias that the Soviet Union will not stop its arms shipments to Nicaragua if the United States does not do likewise in Honduras.

The Soviet diplomat responded to a request from Arias to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to suspend the shipment of weapons to Central America, noting that the United States increased its military presence in Honduras and El Salvador. "Can one expect Nicaragua to accept a unilateral disarmament under these conditions?" Leontiyevich asked.

This weekend, the Presidential Palace released Leontiyevich's reply. In this note, he also denies that the USSR sends supplies to Guatemalan and Salvadoran guerrillas.

In addition, the ambassador says that his country is willing "to assume, based on reciprocity with the United States, the commitment to respect and rigorously to comply with agreements concerning matters of arms security, control, and limitation" in Central America, in reference to the Esquipulas II peace agreement.

According to Leontiyevich's note, the USSR proposed a plan to the United States so that the two powers would stop the supply of arms to the countries of the isthmus. However, he noted that this plan has not been productive, and "it is not our fault," he concluded.

Gorbachev Letter to Arias

*PA102237 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
0100 GMT 10 Apr 88*

[Letter from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, read by Lidieth Brenes, Costa Rican presidential press director, in San Jose; date of letter not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...Gorbachev regarding Central America contains some statements that the USSR cannot accept. However, we would not like to indulge in an argument because we believe [words indistinct] of our attitude before these matters will be more worthwhile.

From the beginning, the USSR has supported the peace efforts of the Contadora and Support Group countries [words indistinct] the Guatemala agreements, so the solution of the region's conflict may be reached by the Latin American countries themselves without any type of foreign interference and on the basis of a [words indistinct] to respect the right of each country to independently select its own road toward development.

In an attempt to create favorable conditions for the signing of the Guatemala agreements, the USSR proposed to the United States that both countries would mutually put an end to supplying weapons except [words indistinct] police to the Central American countries.

Mutual understanding in this matter has not yet been achieved, but it has not been our fault. The United States does not even want to listen to proposals calling for an end to the supply of U.S. weapons to Honduras and El Salvador, claiming that it must meet commitments to

these countries. Moreover, in an indicative gesture, they have been delivering modern combat planes to Honduras and have increased their military presence in that country, which serves as the contras' main base. Under these conditions, how can Nicaragua be expected to accept unilateral disarmament?

The USSR is willing to assume, on a basis of reciprocity with the United States, the commitment to respect and to strictly fulfill the agreements on matters of security, the control and limitation of weapons, and, in the case of the Central American countries, [words indistinct] within the framework of the Contadora process. The confirmation of the U.S. willingness [words indistinct] to promote the holding of negotiations, as called for by the Guatemala agreements, and to promote the achievement of agreements to decrease military confrontations in the region.

Regarding statements that the USSR is supplying weapons to the rebels in El Salvador and Guatemala, we decisively state that they are completely unfounded.

In Moscow there is [words indistinct] on the part of Costa Rica and the president himself to fulfill the Guatemala agreements. We hope that Costa Rica continues exerting itself for the fulfillment of these agreements for the achievement of peace in Central America. We are sure that the achievement of peace in this region is possible, but, besides goodwill and a political commitment, it is also necessary to solve the real problems of aggression with a responsible and constructive approach.

Joint Communique Issued on Costa Ricans' Visit

*LD101444 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Soviet and Costa Rican parliamentarians stated their resolute support for the process of peaceful political settlement in Central America on the basis of Guatemalan agreements without outside interference, spoke out against pressure being put on the sovereign states in the Central American region and condemned actions of those forces which attempted to prolong and aggravate conflicts. This is said in a joint communique on the results of the official visit to the USSR by a delegation of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica.

The persisting conflict situations in various regions of the world cause a serious concern among representatives of the two countries, the document runs. The two sides reaffirmed mutual conviction in the urgent need for their earliest settlement through talks on the basis of respect for sovereignty, national independence and recognition of peoples' right to choose themselves their way of development.

The need was stressed for a new international economic order that would ensure equal trade and economic relations between states, free from discrimination, and

guarantee the economic security of states. In this context, the two countries' MPs favoured disarmament as a step on the way to peace and development, which would make it possible to channel additional resources to solving many acute social and economic problems in developing countries.

The MPs reaffirmed their readiness to promote stronger equal and mutually advantageous relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Costa Rica in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, world peace and cooperation.

Ortega Urges U.S. To Resume Talks on Relations
*LD082230 Moscow TASS in English 1911 GMT
8 Apr 88*

[Text] Managua April 8 TASS—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua addressed a mass rally here today. He urged the U.S. Administration to resume talks with Nicaragua in order to normalize bilateral relations and ensure mutual security. The threat of destruction of the Sandinist People's Revolution will remain until the Washington administration changes its aggressive policy vis-a-vis the Republic, he said.

Guided by goodwill and the wish to put an end to bloodshed in the country, the Nicaraguan national leadership agreed to direct talks with armed contra gangs. Nicaragua is the only Central American nation to abide strictly by the Guatemala agreements in the interests of peace and security in the region. The decision to start a dialogue with counter-revolution does not signal the government's weakness, but is evidence that the contras are unable to overthrow people's power despite all-round support from the U.S. Administration.

The Nicaraguan leader pointed to the need for the conformity of the contras with the commitments made by them in Sapoá, on which peace and an end to the bloody war in the country depend. Yet, he stressed, if hired gangs try to use the ceasefire for regrouping their forces and launching a new armed offensive, they will be given a fitting rebuff by the whole Nicaraguan people.

Contra 'Obstructionist Policy' Delays Talks
*LD091318 Moscow TASS in English 0746 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Managua April 9 TASS—Owing to the obstructionist policy of the representatives of the contras, the talks between the special commissions of the Government of Nicaragua and the contras at Sapoá ended with no result. The commissions were called upon to settle the technical aspects of the ceasefire and concentration of armed contra groups within established zones.

On the plea of lacking appropriate decision-making powers, the contra delegation virtually blocked the proposals of the Republic's Government and put forward

unacceptable terms. In particular, they insist on a continuation of the delivery of military aid to them during the truce, which basically contradicts not only the accords reached at Sapoá but the Guatemala ones as well.

The leader of the Nicaraguan delegation at the talks, Joaquin Cuadra, deputy minister of defence, stated at a press conference on Friday that owing to the incompetence of the representatives of the contras, a discussion of the key aspects of the ceasefire was postponed until April 15.

Honduras Declares State of Emergency
*LD090904 Moscow TASS in English 0839 GMT
9 Apr 88*

[Text] Havana April 9 TASS—The Government of Honduras has declared a state of emergency throughout the country's territory for 15 days. This step by the Honduran authorities was prompted by an intention to prevent possible protest activities by people against the firing at the mass demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy building in Tegucigalpa last Thursday. According to reports reaching Havana, there is a tense situation in that country in view of the tragic events.

More than three thousand Honduran students gathered outside the U.S. Embassy building the day before yesterday to express indignation at Washington's aggressive course in Central America. The demonstrators protested against the presence of U.S. troops and contras on Honduran territory.

U.S. Marines guarding the embassy cold-bloodedly opened fire on the protesters. As a result, five people, among them one child, were killed. The number of those wounded has not been established so far.

Honduran radio stations reported that President Azcona Hoyo called an urgent meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to consider the situation that had developed in the country.

Situation Tense

*LD100821 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Havana April 10 TASS—The situation remains tense in Honduras following the shooting of a student demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa.

According to reports reaching here, the capital of the country is flooded with armed soldiers. The American Embassy, the Presidential Palace and the building of the parliament are heavily guarded by the Army. Tanks are patrolling the streets of the city. Helicopters are hovering over Tegucigalpa. The state of emergency is in force in the capital and San Pedro Sula.

As was reported, American Marines, guarding the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa shot dead five people on Thursday. According to latest data, ten demonstrators were wounded.

Despite the state of emergency, new protest demonstrations were held in the capital and San Pedro Sula, the second largest city. Police and the Army are making arrests. The authorities refuse to disclose the number of those arrested.

It became known that three powerful bombs were exploded in different districts of Tegucigalpa by unidentified men. One of the bombs destroyed the pylon of a high-voltage power line. There are no casualties. The authorities appear unable to name those responsible for these acts. At the same time, progovernment radio stations blamed the explosions on certain Honduran subversive forces.

Salvadoran Rebels Successful in Fighting
*LD101501 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT
10 Apr 88*

[Text] Havana April 10 TASS—During three days of fighting in the area of the Guazapa volcano 35 kilometers away from the capital of El Salvador, fighting men of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front put out of action 20 soldiers of the Duarte regime. The guerrillas dealt powerful blows to the punitive army also in other areas of the country.

Since April 6, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front detachments have been successfully repulsing the attacks by the first infantry brigade of the Salvadorean Army which tries to dislodge guerrillas from the Guazapa area where the main camps of the Salvadorean rebel movement are concentrated, the rebel radio station Venceremos reported Saturday. It said that guerrillas launched the most tangible strike at punitive troops last Friday, killing or wounding 12 enemy soldiers.

SALPRESS-NOTISAL news agency also reported that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front detachments staged an impressive action in Usulután Department where they launched a simultaneous massive attack on Hucuaran, San-Francisco-Javier and Hucuapa settlements, putting out of action a considerable number of punitive troops and destroying a light enemy tank.

The so-called city brigades of the front staged a series of acts of sabotage against the regime's military and industrial facilities in San Salvador, capital of the country, the cities of San Miguel and Santa Ana in the last three days.

Representatives of the front told a TASS correspondent that the rebels' coordinated powerful strikes in several areas of the country and their ability to conduct combat operations of a small degree of intensity were evidence of the front's indisputable strength.

Even U.S. massive military and economic aid to the Duarte regime and direct guidance to anti-rebel operations given by U.S. advisers do not bring about a somewhat tangible tilt in favour of the punitive troops. The representatives of the patriots said that the guerrillas' constant successes in the battle field forcefully showed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front was a powerful military-political organisation that should be reckoned with in determining the future of El Salvador and Central America on the whole.

Falklands Exercises Show 'Imperial Ambitions'
*PM081517 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
2 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5*

[Article by Yu. Sigov: "Six Years On. Britain Is Demonstrating Its Imperial Ambitions in the South Atlantic"]

[Text] ...General N. Carlier, commander of the British military garrison on the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, was satisfied: Despite all their efforts, the "orange" forces failed to break the resistance of the troops defending the archipelago. But there was nothing surprising in that, as far as the general was concerned. After all, the subunits simulating an "Argentine invasion" of the islands lost in the south Atlantic had only just arrived from Britain. The soldiers were still wet behind the ears. And they were up against tried and tested fighting men who had been broken in during the hostilities in the area back in 1982.

The armed conflict between Argentina and Britain over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands broke out exactly 6 years ago, on 2 April 1982. A British armada was dispatched to the edge of the world to protect the country's "vitally important interests." As a result of the combat actions, Britain retained administrative control over the islands. But Argentina still considers them part of its national territory.

Now, on the eve of the 6th anniversary of the start of the armed conflict between the two countries, the situation in the region has deteriorated sharply once again.

For a period of 3 weeks, starting 7 March, Phantoms screamed overhead and the sound of exploding bombs and shells was heard in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. Subunits of the British Navy, Air Force, and Airborne Assault Forces, around 1,000 men in all, using the U.S. base on Ascension Island in the center of the Atlantic as a transshipment point (exactly in accordance with the 1982 scenario) and conducted military maneuvers code-named "Fire Focus" not far from the Argentine coast.

But the entire "focus" of the maneuvers was not so much intimidation of the Argentines, although this aim was not ruled out, as the supercharging of tension in the Latin American area as a whole. The Argentine press noted that Britain's latest bout of "muscle-flexing" in the region of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands coincided with a sharp deterioration of the situation in Central America.

The experience of "British-style rapid deployment," in which a large military contingent from the other hemisphere was transferred to the area in the space of 20 hours, could be very useful, Pentagon strategists believe, especially as the United States was interested in distracting the international public's attention from events taking place in Honduras and Panama. The maintenance of tension in the South America area served their purpose.

The British forces' military exercises also interested Washington from the viewpoint of turning the archipelago, situated at a spot where strategic sea and air lanes cross, into their "unsinkable aircraft carrier" and also into a NATO operational advance warning base. According to the Argentine paper *LA NACION*, the U.S. military department also sees it as a potential site for the deployment of antimissile systems within the framework of SDI. Together with Easter Island, which the Pinochet junta has given to the Pentagon for the construction of a military base, the Falklands (Malvinas) have a "strategic pincer grip" on the whole of the Latin American Continent.

Official London's bellicose actions have been sharply criticized in the Latin American countries. Argentina was supported by its neighbors, Uruguay and Brazil, and the countries of the Contadora Group. The Uruguayan Government prohibited a British military aircraft that had been forced to land at the capital's Carrasco Airport because of a technical malfunction from taking off for the Falklands (Malvinas). "A slap in the face for the world community" was how Argentine Foreign Minister D. Caputo described British Prime Minister M. Thatcher's statement that the maneuvers are "exclusively the business of the British." He also categorically rejected the widespread thesis in the West about "Soviet naval infiltration" in the region, which, allegedly, was the actual reason for conducting the British military maneuvers. One may indeed encounter ships flying the Soviet flag off the Argentine coast. But they are engaged in peaceful fishing in that country's territorial waters under the terms of an intergovernmental agreement.

For more than 150 years now Argentina and Britain have been arguing about who the rocky archipelago in the

south Atlantic belongs to. London has always categorically rejected proposals by the Argentine side to sit down at the negotiating table and tackle the problem by political means. The British forces' military maneuvers that have just ended demonstrated once again that the present Tory leadership does not intend to abandon its imperial ambitions and heed the voice of reason. It is seeking and finding in Washington backing for its hard line.

Russian Federation Deputies Visit Uruguay
LD110948 Moscow TASS in English 0613 GMT
11 Apr 88

[Text] Montevideo April 11 TASS—A visit to Uruguay of a delegation of the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation has become a new step on the way of the consolidation of friendly relations between the USSR and that country.

The Soviet guests visited the capital of Uruguay, the departments of Canelones and Rio Negro, familiarized themselves with the work of municipal bodies, visited industrial enterprises and farms.

The delegation met with people of Russian extraction living in Uruguay who had emigrated there many decades before.

An extremely cordial welcome was accorded to the envoys of the Russian Federation. Special sessions of the councils of the departments held on the occasion of their visit emphasized the importance of contacts between the local bodies of power of the two countries with a view to further developing friendly Soviet-Uruguayan relations.

Members of the delegation told their hosts about the reorganization [as received] (*perestroyka*) and about transformations in the work of the local bodies of power in the USSR in the setting of the new tasks.

The delegation of the Russian Federation leaves for home today.

Political & Social

Further on Gorbachev Tour of Uzbekistan

Visits Uzbek Kolkhozes

PM081121 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 88
Second Edition p 1

[TASS report: "To Think in the New Way and Act Vigorously. M.S. Gorbachev's Meetings With Uzbek Working People"]

[Text] Restructuring is gathering momentum. The sense of responsibility for the cause of revolutionary renewal, for the country's future, and for socialism's destiny is growing stronger in Soviet people's hearts. This atmosphere of the people's confidence in the correctness of the course set by the party was characteristic of M.S. Gorbachev's meetings with the Uzbek SSR's working people which began 7 April.

Immediately after the Soviet-Afghan talks were concluded the CPSU Central Committee general secretary set out for Uzbek kolkhozes to visit rural workers. Spring is already in full swing across the expanses of the republic. Early vegetables—cabbages, radishes, garlic, carrots—are showing green, albeit still under plastic. Apple and pear trees are in blossom, and the branches of peach trees are covered in pink.

M.S. Gorbachev, who had come to Tashkentskiy Rayon's K. Marx Kolkhoz, stopped right on the edge of a vegetable field. And there an animated conversation with kolkhoz members began. They spoke about new houses for kolkhoz members and how better to organize housing construction and to get good-quality radio equipment, modern furniture, and cars into the store. In short, there was a frank discussion about how to raise the quality of life.

M.S. Gorbachev: But it must be the one who works well that lives better. Quite recently the situation in Uzbekistan was different. But so as not to offend you, I will say that that was the case not only in Uzbekistan. It is important now to keep to a firm course: Whoever works well must also live well. The working person and labor are at the bottom of this morality.

Turning to those assembled, M.S. Gorbachev asked: Is everything about the policy of restructuring clear?

R. Akbarov, kolkhoz chairman: It is clear. Restructuring is very necessary. Previously, for example, we barely fulfilled the plan, applauded one another, and sat with arms folded. Now we think primarily about how to supply people. Without interruption, all year round.

M.S. Gorbachev: You have seized upon an important topic: For the point of restructuring is that everything be done in the person's name. Production for the person, and the product and commodity for the person. Housing

and construction—for the person. And in the soviets' work priority must be given to concern for the person. Newspapers must write, above all, about the person, how he lives, what is good and what is bad for him. The person—this is the most important thing.

R. Akbarov: This was also discussed at the kolkhoz members' congress. It was an objective, businesslike discussion.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do you, a congress participant, agree with everything I said?

R. Akbarov: If I did not agree, we would not have begun this work last year.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do you guys have the same opinion of restructuring?

Kh. Akhmetov, vegetable grower: Everyone is of the same opinion about this: Restructuring is something everyone needs, because it works for everyone.

M.S. Gorbachev: I see you maintain good contact with the chairman. That is important. If a gulf emerges between the team leader and the team, between the kolkhoz or sovkhoz leadership and the working people, if there is no mutual understanding, things will not get moving.

Answering the kolkhoz members' questions, M.S. Gorbachev said: Our meeting with Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, ended a few hours ago. The process of a political settlement in Afghanistan is drawing to an end. Confidence exists that an agreement will be signed on a political settlement. I think that both Pakistan and Afghanistan will still reach agreement. And I think that we and the Americans will reach agreement, as guarantors. A great thing will be done. This conflict must be concluded. It has dragged on too long. The country needs peace. Therefore we discussed the last questions during our conversation today; it remained to untie the knots. The discussion was very important, very practical....

The Soviet Government understands that our people want things to improve inside the country and peace to be strengthened. And we have this in mind. Our policy—both domestic and foreign—meets with a big response in all countries. Ordinary people, working people, all people want a tranquil life. You and I are in no disagreement about this.

Voices: No.

M.S. Gorbachev: I will not only express my own opinion but also say on behalf of the Central Committee Politburo and our Soviet Government that we together with you have lived through the misfortunes which have fallen to Uzbekistan's lot at certain stages. The Uzbek

people are a people with an ancient culture, a people who have suffered a great deal, done a lot for this land, and rendered it habitable, turning it into a modern region. I am familiar with Uzbekistan and have visited almost all the oblasts. I have been to Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand, Navoi, Zarafshan, Namangan, Fergana, Andizhan. I have seen a great deal and had many meetings: with young people, in production, in villages, with elders. I have to some extent understood the soul and psychology of your people, who are industrious, modest, and devoted to their land. And devoted to Soviet power. Recall what internationalism the Uzbek people displayed during the war, how many cares they shouldered. Therefore I will state frankly that neither Moscow nor our people have displayed a disrespectful attitude toward Uzbekistan even during difficult times for it. We know that the people are not to blame. In the past a certain group of persons was to blame. Let them answer for that.

It is good that people today are in a mood to work, to improve the land, to resolve new tasks. And look how your republic is developing and growing. It is good that the Uzbek family is now being strengthened on a new basis, on new socialist lines. Although young people must have their say here. For survivals from the past still remain in family relations, with the result that the woman suffers, and the family and society suffer.

...So you must all do more, including young people. Young people must take on their shoulders first the kolkhoz, then the republic and the whole country.

Surrounded by kolkhoz members, M.S. Gorbachev moved to a neighboring field. It was completely covered with rows of vegetables covered by plastic. But the conversation turned to cotton. Of course, cotton is our asset, kolkhoz members said, but why are Uzbek fruits and vegetables becoming increasingly expensive?

M.S. Gorbachev: You must know what has happened: Cotton used to occupy up to 85 percent of the land in Uzbekistan. Therefore there was not even alfalfa or, consequently, milk and so forth. Moreover, cotton needs a change of land, which did not happen. And harvests began to fall, and fiber quality began to deteriorate. Much was violated. That is the first point. Second: You are right to ask if it really is normal for Uzbekistan to import foodstuffs and confectionery, I believe, from other places.

Another question, and a new topic of conversation—garden plots. It turns out that horticultural and truck garden cooperatives are still not growing so fast.

M.S. Gorbachev: We are now giving out a million plots a year. We want all applicants to be satisfied. We are in favor of refusing no one. Your situation is somewhat different: It is possible to give land, but if it is without

water you will do nothing on it. Therefore the problem is one of improving the land. And then it will be possible to give people plots. Any other questions?

A voice: How is the fate of the Aral Sea being decided?

M.S. Gorbachev: Specialists are now studying what is to happen there. For now I can say that careful use must be made of water. There is tremendous overconsumption of water both in Uzbekistan and in other republics. To return to your question, I will say that various options for reviving the Aral Sea are being studied.

The fields of the K. Marx Kolkhoz abut on the vineyards of another farm—the "Lenin Yuly" ("Leninist Path") Kolkhoz. There, too, the conversation started with the land and the hands which adorn and cultivate it. In the home of kolkhoz vegetable grower I. Isabayev these industrious hands make up a good team. This is a well-known family contract of vegetable growers in the rayon.

The CPSU Central Committee general secretary made the acquaintance of the family members and inquired about their daily life and social working conditions on the kolkhoz.

The topic of the family contract, the new progressive management methods, and relations in the collective was also aired at a meeting with working people of the kolkhoz hothouse farm.

"How many people are there in your family?" M.S. Gorbachev asked worker M. Turgunova.

M. Turgunova: Six. I have four children.

M.S. Gorbachev: And who works with you?

M. Turgunova: The children help, and my husband works as a tractor driver.

M.S. Gorbachev: How much land does your family look after?

M. Turgunova: One-tenth of a hectare.

M.S. Gorbachev: How much do you harvest per square meter?

M. Turgunova: According to the plan 12 kg, but we get 20 kg, and this year we are reckoning on even 25 kg.

M.S. Gorbachev: Do you know what I like about the family contract? Everything is out in the open here. An accountant is not needed—everything is clear. There is no need to go around talking and giving orders. The family has an interest in working well. Here I am, come to agitate among you for the family contract, but you are already introducing it.

A new meeting awaited in the settlement street. Turning to the people assembled there, M.S. Gorbachev said: Spring has come here. This is the first time I have seen a peach tree in blossom....

Frankly speaking, your mood gladdens me most of all. We still have problems. They will be with us tomorrow too. That is life. But when people are in excellent mood, then problems will be overcome.

Voices: Everyone is in a good, combat mood.

M.S. Gorbachev: Is restructuring to your liking?

Voices: Yes, yes...

M.S. Gorbachev: Well, I wish you good weather and good harvests. And happiness. Simply human happiness.

M.S. Gorbachev was accompanied by E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and R.N. Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee.

Tours Tashkent Factory

*LD082223 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 8 Apr 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev continued his meetings with the working people of Uzbekistan. This morning Comrade Gorbachev laid flowers at a monument to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. [video shows monument, two guards carrying flowers followed by the group led by Gorbachev, who walks between Raisa Gorbacheva and Shevardnadze; Gorbachev seen ascending steps leading to the monument, adjusts the ribbon on the flowers which reads "To Great Lenin—M.S. Gorbachev." Gorbachev then bows to the monument and returns to the group]

The same morning Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev visited an enterprise in Tashkent—the Algoritm enterprise. This is a new enterprise, its construction was completed recently, literally. Its capacities are already being mastered by its young collective. Algoritm is a large central Asian production unit manufacturing precision instruments. One should mention that the collectives of the country's many similar works helped the enterprise to train young specialists and workers. New residential areas have been built near the enterprise. [video shows works' interiors; Gorbachev, Raisa Gorbacheva, Shevardnadze, and other officials being shown around the works; Gorbachev listening to explanations provided by a local official; watching workers soldering at a work bench]

A meeting with the collective took place during the workers' lunch break in the courtyard of the enterprise. [video shows a crowd gathering at a building entrance; Gorbachev, Nishanov, Raisa Gorbacheva, and officials seen surrounded by workers]

[Begin recording] [Gorbachev] How is life in town?

[Voices from the crowd] It is OK.

[Gorbachev] It is OK, is it? The main thing we want from restructuring is that people's general feeling—workers, intellectuals, or peasants—should be good. You know, there will be problems—problems in everyday life, problems now with food, now with goods. These things are like that. Everything will be undergoing changes. Salaries may be sufficient or not, although this problem, too, will be solved with economic growth. But in our country people should feel good, and, first of all of course, democratic processes—democratic processes should contribute to this. Our people should feel confident, confident. [video shows crowd, including some on ledges of buildings overlooking the courtyard]

Would anyone like to ask a question or say anything? And I (?have given the floor to him). [crowd laughs; Gorbachev addresses those on the ledges] You have found quite a rostrum for yourselves! [general laughter] Have you any questions?

[Male voice from the crowd] Yesterday on television you said that it was the first time that you have seen how peaches grow.

[Gorbachev] Yes, I was here one summer, I saw and tried peaches then but I had to come now to see them in bloom.

[Same man] There are many peach trees here, at the works too.

[Unidentified young man] Mikhail Sergeyevich, come in autumn when we have a lot of vegetables and fruit.

[Gorbachev] I have been here in autumn; I tried melons; and tomatoes are the sweetest here. Only in Uzbekistan can they cook pilau in such a way that every rice grain is separate so that what you have is not a kasha but pilau. [addressing two women standing nearby] Have you learnt how to cook pilau?

[Women] Yes, of course, we have!

[Gorbachev] There is a good thing I have discovered—that for the first time, I see that together with...that Uzbek boys and girls have been taking up work in Uzbek industry, because at other enterprises it was not very evident. Yet this process is developing little by little, and this is good. So now the Uzbek youths are already getting engaged in this. I see Russians, Ukrainians here, so you have a good international set here.

[Unidentified woman] Yes, we are all friends.

[Gorbachev] This is good, you know, because this is a country [words indistinct].

[Unidentified woman] Yes.

[Gorbachev] Sometimes such people turn up who suddenly start drawing boundary lines. But how can one draw boundary line here? How can one draw it in our country when everything is intermingled? This is the way this country was formed. Everything is interconnected; the whole country is tied together. And this is good. Uzbekistan will give what it can give best, according to its specialization and what it is prepared to give; and another republic may give other things, so on the whole, it is a country with distribution of labor. Therefore, I have the following wish: It is a good, so I wish that the collective will be internationalist and good here.

[Voices from the crowd] Thank you, thank you. Come often to see us.

[Gorbachev] You will start getting married, perhaps, and you will all intermix here.

[Woman's voice] We have already intermixed, all of us.

[Gorbachev] Now we will look at you and remember; and later we will come back and see what is going on here. [general laughter] It is true; young people feel that their time has come.

[Unidentified woman] Yes.

[Gorbachev] For how many decades ahead are they (?building) new lives for themselves! Do not lose this striving! Do not lose heart! Be exacting. There is only one thing, you know: One should be exacting but also responsible. Many instances of a free-ride mentality is in evidence, both within the working class and intelligentsia too, quite a lot, including wage levelling and setting of unwarranted pay and bonus levels. All this, comrades, should be put on the right track. People's labor, contribution, and talent lie at the basis.

[Man's voice] [Words indistinct] window dress.

[Gorbachev] That is right, right. Deeds (?are of paramount importance). Well, young people, show your daring, and we will help you so that you will take your country upon your shoulders, our country, and carry on.

[Voices from the crowd] Thank you.

[Gorbachev] All the best to you. [crown applauds; video shows Gorbachev, Shevardnadze, and Raisa Gorbacheva waving; Gorbachev points at men on the ledges]

[Gorbachev] What a rostrum they found! [general laughter, applause]

Talks With Tashkent Workers

LD081859 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1500 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Announcer-read report on CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's 8 April activities in Uzbekistan—all dialogue attributions as heard]

[Text] We have just received an account of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's stay in Uzbekistan. Today, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's working program in Uzbekistan began with the ceremony of the laying of flowers at the Vladimir Ilich Lenin monument. From there, the route of the CPSU Central Committee General Secretary went to an industrial area of the city. He devoted a little under 2 hours to a thorough study of production at the Algorithm Association and to conversations with its workers.

During one of his meetings with specialists the general secretary stressed that the development of Soviet-produced computer equipment is a paramount task throughout the entire national economy complex. By the year 2000, he noted, we are due to increase the production of electronic equipment tenfold. These plans are on a grand scale, but they are realistic, for the scientific groundwork has been done. There is now a need of capacities and cadres. It is pleasing that the machine-building and other industries are literally not allowing the electronic workers to catch their breath in their demands for new equipment. This means that society has realized the very acute need to develop this sphere. Success to you, comrades, in this very important matter.

On emerging from the workshop Comrade Gorbachev met with a big group of young engineering workers. You have a great future, the general secretary said to them, first because you are young. The average age of the enterprise's workers is 28, I was informed. Second, you are working at industry's front line, which is what computer equipment constitutes at the present time. This is, of course, interesting work, particularly for young people. It is a fine thing that Uzbek girls, as I noticed, have work at the factory. After all, only quite recently they did not have very much enthusiasm for such work. I can see among you Ukrainians and Russians, too.

Voice: Of those working here, 40 percent are Russians, 35 percent Uzbeks, and 15 percent Ukrainians and Belorussians. Forty nations and nationalities are represented.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev: In a word, fully international. That is good. In our country all the peoples are strongly interconnected. Take Uzbekistan as an example; it supplies products to the whole country, and receives them from everywhere—more, incidentally, than it gives to the others.

Voice: There are people among us who are living on nonlabor income—in other words, speculators.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev: Such people feel themselves masters of the situation when there is a shortage. At the present time, in the course of restructuring we are doing a lot of work to increase production of consumer goods and are bringing public health, education, and light industry up to standards. I imagine you yourselves will have felt the effects of this. We want people to go to work in a good mood. And the problems of day-to-day living will be solved in step with the growth of the economy. Restructuring, the switching of the whole economy onto a new track, to new methods of management and new technology, will certainly take time; but so that there will be more of everything and life will become still better. We must develop restructuring still more strongly. The basis of everything, comrades, is the individual; his responsible attitude to the task in hand, his talent. So, young people, march forward boldly. It is for you to carry the republic and the whole country on your shoulders, to live by its needs and concerns. And the older generation will always help you. All the very best to you.

With Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev were Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR foreign minister; and Comrade Nishanov, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan.

After visiting the factory, Comrade Gorbachev had a conversation at the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan with senior officials of the republic.

In the afternoon, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev left Tashkent for Moscow. He was seen off at the airport by Comrade Nishanov, Comrade Kadyrov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek SSR, members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of Uzbekistan, and other comrades.

Later today, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee returned to Moscow. Comrade Shevardnadze arrived with him.

Addresses Tashkent Party Leaders

LD092337 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Address by Mikhail S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at a meeting held in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 8 April—recorded, carried within the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] I will begin, comrades, by expressing satisfaction at the opportunity to meet with you, to have meetings, even if brief ones, with working people. This is always necessary, the more so now when profound transformations and changes are taking place in the country. And,

naturally, the Central Committee and government are very interested in having precise information about the ongoing processes. In other words, to have its hand on the pulse.

Present here are members of the Central Committee Bureau of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, members of the government, the Presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet, first secretaries of regional party committees, chairman of executive committees, ministers and other officials. It can be said that gathered here are those on whose work much depends in the life of the republic, in the organization of all the work and the working out of prospects for the future. Your most important duty is to ensure rhythm, people's good mood, a businesslike approach in the whole republic, to show the people, the working people, the prospects of further development.

When the question arose of the meeting with the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Najibullah, it occurred to me and to the comrades in the Politburo that it would be a good idea to hold it in Tashkent. The situation, and I would like to begin my speech with this, demanded the holding of such a meeting because the process of settlement in Afghanistan has entered the decisive stage. I want to inform you of the results of that meeting with Comrade Najibullah. First of all, I must say that in Geneva everything has now approached the end, the agreements are basically ready, but difficulties threatening to torpedo the the agreements arose at the concluding stage. This required additional intensive efforts.

We studied the existing situation at a Politburo meeting with due account for the complex intertwinings and interests, all the implications and found approaches which, we think, provide now a possibility to conclude this process. And conclude it in such a way that the signing of the agreements by the Afghan and Pakistani sides and the simultaneous signing of certain documents by us and the Americans in the capacity of guarantors could take place already in the coming days. The signing of the Geneva agreements would create more favorable conditions for solving the problems of national reconciliation inside Afghanistan and for a political settlement around it. I think that the agreements will be signed in the next few days.

We understand that the signing of the Geneva agreements will begin a new stage both in the development of events in Afghanistan and simultaneously in Soviet-Afghan relations. We are also aware of the big international significance of entry into this new stage. The whole range of these problems was examined from precisely this point of view.

You have read, probably, or heard on the radio the concluding document—our joint statement. The main conclusions and positions of the Soviet Union and our

joint positions with Afghanistan are formulated in it. All this is very important for the present moment. Such work was done and I consider it necessary to inform you about this. I would also like to inform you that we intend, as it was announced on February 8, to start the withdrawal of Soviet troops on May 15 of this year.

And now about our internal matters, about the way perestroika is proceeding, how it is developing in the country, and the new questions that have arisen. Probably I will not avoid making repetitions but maybe here in Uzbekistan this will be taken better since you have the saying that "repetition does not spoil a prayer."

Indeed, much has been said lately in the Central Committee of the party and by the government about the situation in the country and the course of perestroika. I, too, speak frequently on problems of perestroika, including recently. Yet I would like to express some thoughts and considerations. First of all I must do this so that afterwards, in the context of the overall situation, the national tasks and problems, the specifics of the present stage which has made new demands of the entire party, our entire people, I could assess, even if briefly, the situation in Uzbekistan.

A brief word about the present situation and the present stage of restructuring in the country. When we speak about stages of perestroika we would not want thereby to artificially separate somehow one from the other: Like saying, look, the first stage is over, we have turned over the page, fully solved the tasks of the initial period and something different has begun. And now, from such a day, from such a date, the second stage has begun. This, of course, would be an oversimplified approach. In reality when we speak about the initial stage or second stage we simply want to stress that each of them has its specificities which should be taken into account.

With what did we begin the process of perestroika? Frankly speaking, we got the most direct impulse from the actual state of affairs in the economy, in the social sphere, and also in the moral-political and spiritual fields. We were concerned by the real problems which began to burden the life of the whole of society and every family, every work collective. This is what worried us. And in order to tackle the accumulated problems which, so to say, were banging at all windows and doors, we had to be clear in our minds about the society in which we live, to subject it to an all-round, responsible and principled analysis.

Such an analysis was made and, as I said already, from principled positions. On the basis of a profound and truthful evaluation of the processes, both positive and negative, we obtained a real picture, and this allowed us to draw conclusions both for policy and for practical activity. It became clear: Some partial solutions, the adoption of some separate practical measures or the conduct of some campaign would not suffice. The situation turned out to be much more serious and profound

than it appeared on the surface. The task acquired the contours of a large and long-term one. We arrived at the conclusion that we should start a thorough restructuring of the whole society.

It was exactly as a result of such work and such a conclusion that there appeared decisions, I would say, of a strategic nature which defined the main directions of the fundamental restructuring encompassing policy and the economy, culture, the entire spiritual life, the entire complex set of contemporary social relations. In effect the question arose of the fate of our state, the fate of socialism and the future of our people.

We saw for ourselves that we really have no way out other than the way of a fundamental renewal of society along the road of opening up the potential of socialism inherent in its very nature. We realized that the party must display courage and will, free itself of existing notions of socialism bearing the imprint of certain conditions and especially the period of the cult of personality, rid itself of old notions of the methods of construction and, the main thing, rid itself of everything that, generally speaking, deformed socialism, fettered the people's creative abilities.

This constituted the essence of the initial first stage: meditation, cognition and formulation of policy. But this does not at all mean that we already have all the answers. No, the party will yet have to carry out a tremendous amount of theoretical, political work, drawing into it all the scientific and intellectual forces of society.

Our efforts in theory and policy not only should not slacken but, on the contrary, should expand and reach new horizons with due account for the already accumulated experience of perestroika because this experience also helps to take a new glance at many things and correctly assess the past. In this respect we pin big hopes on the preparation for and holding of the 19th party conference. It should give a new impulse to such activity. That is why we should thoroughly continue the party's theoretical and political work so as to understand better the present, the past and, most importantly, based on the lessons drawn and real knowledge, to build the future.

Generally it can be said that the main result of the first stage of perestroika is that we got a thoroughly considered, scientifically substantiated and concrete platform of perestroika. While at the present stage the main thing is to transform policy, decisions—and we have adopted decisions on the biggest directions—into life, into actual deeds. Everything that was thought out at the first stage must now be translated into reality by way of democracy and openness, a radical economic reform, new approaches to social policy, a moral and spiritual revitalization of society.

Perestroika has acquired great scope. Today it involves and affects the entire society. It has put into motion the entire mass of people. Yesterday and today I had several

meetings. People are becoming different. The most important thing is that they are coming out of the state of social apathy, indifference to what is happening. People are becoming concerned and they are experiencing worry. And this, comrades, is always accompanied by a sense of responsibility.

Why is this so? Because people today know more about society, about their republic, about their present and past, about what is being planned for the future. And when a person knows all this he begins to join the common process. The more so that we appeal to him, ask him to express his views and thoughts. And it is thus—by way of the processes of democratization, openness, radical reform, which itself is also based on the drawing of people into creative life by way of work teams, contracts, cost-accounting, etc., by way of revitalizing the spiritual atmosphere—by way of all this that the minds of people were set in motion and they have become more active. This, perhaps, so far is the most important thing that we have managed to accomplish—to awaken the interest of people in deeds, in perestroika, in the fate of the whole country.

But at the same time this situation has placed also the party itself, all its elements, all our cadres and, indeed, also all work collectives in new conditions. We have every reason to say that the decisive stage of struggle for the success of perestroika has begun. Now when perestroika affects the interests of the entire society, every collective, every person, discussions about its aims and tasks, its essence, have intensified with new force. It may be that at the first stage the discussions were due more to human curiosity. People wanted to understand what was happening, what the leadership was planning and to ask as many questions as possible. But now, when every person is affected, life as such has become involved. And people are again returning to questions. But now they are discussing them already more concretely and with a bigger sense of personal involvement. They want to get a thorough understanding of everything that perestroika offers a person and what it demands of him and the whole of society.

You see what discussions are taking place in society, what passions are flaring. Every person wants to understand what is taking place, find his place, speak out, make his contribution or to object to something. This, too, is unusual. In the past somebody with a differing view would keep quiet. And this, let's say this frankly, suited many. [Moscow TASS in English at 1453 GMT on 9 April carries a similar report, adding the following: "It was said: The meeting passed well—not a single question was asked and there wasn't a single deviation. And that in conditions when there were so many problems in society, in the country. A meeting was considered to have passed 'well' and in an orderly manner when not a single question was raised."]

I would say that we must solve simultaneously two tasks, even not two but one task that has two aspects. First of all we must advance perestroika by solving practical

questions along all directions and at the same time learn democracy, political culture, cost accounting and new methods of economic management. We must master new methods in the activity of party bodies and the soviets. Here we must act in such a way that perestroika would already yield real fruit and changes for the better in the living and working conditions of Soviet people.

You probably have discerned this approach in the activity of the Central Committee. Perestroika, no doubt, will take a rather lengthy period of time. But there are questions which, I would say, are crying out, are demanding attention and solution today. In this connection we studied the state of the public health system and education, something that concerns virtually every family, all people. And tackled them in the first turn. For the public health system alone we allocated more than R6 billion, about R7 billion, it would appear, and we sought and found money to strengthen the material and technical base of the public health system, to improve the supply of medicines, increase the material interest of doctors and other medical personnel.

Or take the reform of our educational system—from schools to establishments of higher learning.

We see that we must solve many questions connected with the food problem. Here we have introduced serious incentives in order to raise vigor and performance in the agrarian sector.

Or take the commodities that do not satisfy us today because of our present-day requirements and present-day standards.

Or housing. We have added here too in order to solve this problem as well. We switched ten per cent of capital investments from industrial to housing construction. We have lifted restrictions on the building of houses by individuals. Recently we studied questions of expanding the scale of house building by cooperatives. We adopted a major decision on developing the base of the building materials industry.

This is what we are doing: By singling out strategic problems which require time we want to solve more swiftly also many such questions which already improve the life of people.

Comrades, perestroika begins its count from the April plenary meeting. And it will be 3 years several days from now. And they have demonstrated that, after all, the most difficult thing in it is the reshaping of mentality.

All this, comrades, is gained with difficulty. This applies to openness and democracy, to cost accounting and new methods of economic management, particularly the various forms of the contract method, and to processes in culture. It all moves forward with considerable difficulty. With considerable difficulty. And do we not see how many demands life has made of the party itself, party

bodies, party cadres, the soviets and public organisations. It is not by chance, for instance, that despite the existence of a huge network of public organisations, which encompass the main sections of the population, informal associations and organisations suddenly began to appear. Why? Because people are not satisfied with the activity, atmosphere and methods of existing organizations. The appearance of informal organizations is connected exactly with this.

I must also say the following. The scope, the novelty of problems along all the directions of the new stage of perestroika have, frankly speaking, simply frightened some people. Quite a few simply lost their bearings. A certain confusion has originated in minds. Somebody screamed for help. But it is a short distance from this to sounding a retreat for perestroika.

This situation and understanding of the exceptional importance of the present moment in the development of perestroika brought the Central Committee to the conclusion that the ideological backing of perestroika is now acquiring top priority.

That is why this question was raised so sharply at the February plenary meeting of the Central Committee. We also returned to it at the All-Union Congress of Collective Farmers. And only recently it was elucidated in the well-known article in the 5 April issue of PRAVDA.

I would like to convey to you, comrades, the understanding that perestroika, like any revolution, requires a resolute, revolutionary change in consciousness and mentality. Without this it is impossible to accomplish cardinal transformations either in the basis or in the political superstructure.

We are looking for answers to questions set by life itself and are finding them not beyond the framework of our social and political system, but on the road of bringing out the potential of socialism.

The need of cardinal socialist transformations has long been felt in the party. Repeated attempts were made in the fifties, sixties, and seventies. We all remember this, the comrades sitting here remember this, perhaps with the exception of those who are still very young. At first such attempts produced genuine and substantial results. Take the September plenary meeting of 1953. What an impulse it gave at the time to the development of agriculture. But already starting with 1958 the situation began to change. Take the March plenary meeting of 1965. It was, in effect, a new concept of how to manage society, how to approach the economy not only of agriculture but how to approach the economy as such.

The scientific approach was employed as the main one. Incidentally, that was the Eighth 5-Year-Plan period and look what substantial increments in agriculture and not only agriculture characterise it.

So there have been attempts, real and serious attempts but often they turned out to be truncated, not broad enough, encompassed only some part of the problems without linkage, without account for the entire interconnection of one problem with other problems. Inconsistency in implementing even those decisions that were adopted also made itself felt. Many attempts to carry out cardinal transformations were doomed to failure because they were not backed up by a development and expansion of democracy. Everything was solved in studies while the people was not seriously drawn into participation either in the preparation of decisions or especially in their implementation. This was happening because both the party and the cadre corps in the country were on the whole under the influence of old perceptions and professed the command-administrative methods of leadership which opposed democracy. There was no understanding of the tremendous, decisive importance of democracy for the development of socialism and without which socialism simply cannot develop.

Why do I tell you this, comrades? This has turned out to be one of the main points today over which passions and debates have flared up in the country. The command-and-administer system and those worshipping it are not surrendering ground without battle.

The process of democratization is making progress. And it is, of course, a blow to the command methods. Through glasnost, democracy, cost-accounting, the contract system, and the councils of brigades and worker collectives, people are beginning to join in the common effort. This is not to everyone's liking; this does not suit everyone. There remains a nostalgia for the past—for commanding. There are great deal of people who view their particular factory, village, collective farm, district or city as their own fiefdom.

This is why not only debates are under way. A real struggle in real life, in party and local government organizations, in worker collectives and in all sections of society, has erupted over this central issue. I'll tell you this: What is happening in precisely this sphere of our perestroika is remarkable. It is remarkable because people are gaining in strength. People have raised their heads, come to realize their rights and have a high education potential gained over the years of Soviet Government. And they are beginning consciously to share in all the processes taking pace in society.

Without bringing out the potential of socialist democracy, comrades, we shall not be able to unfold the potential of socialism either, we shall not be able to make our perestroika irreversible, shall not achieve its goals and shall not make certain that Lenin's ideals of socialism will become a reality for the people. We shall not achieve the aims of restructuring.

Why am I emphasizing this point? It is the principal one, comrades. And taking into account the audience in this hall, this subject is all the more appropriate to be

discussed in the straightforward, honest party language. Disapproving voices can be heard, saying: This is what your democracy has led to; this is what your perestroyka has gotten you. It is disrespect for the people that is behind them. I think that is the main thing. The disbelief in their wisdom, their patriotism, their common sense and abilities, the disbelief in their sense of responsibility and their fidelity to socialism. There are numerous instances indicating that many of our leading cadres are finding it very difficult to give up the old methods of work, management by injunction, issuing commands to people.

Life has demonstrated the utter inefficiency of the command-and-administer methods, their incompatibility with the nature of the current tasks and, last but not least, their being out of date and inconsistent with the cultural standards and political awareness of the Soviet people.

This is, comrades, the kernel of the matter today. Speaking about this, I remember the collective farmers' congress. Some of you must have attended it as well. We in the Politburo have been most gratified by the high standard of the congress: the standard of the discussion there, the diversity of the problems raised, the profound concern for the nation, and the awareness of responsibility for resolving the food problem. That is, in short, with the farmers' statesmanlike approach to their tasks.

It is from these positions that delegates have demanded categorically that all the impediments in the way of initiative in agriculture be removed and scope opened for creativity, independence and enterprise. Practically 100 percent of the speakers have demanded and requested that the collective farms should no longer be commanded about. Nonetheless, even today many remain deaf to that and keep in the rut, pulling the cart along the beaten track. That's where we've ended up, comrades. That's where we've allowed things to drift to.

I have had several brief meetings with working people over these days in Uzbekistan. What has been the strongest impression? The people's activeness, their openness and a desire to discuss the most serious matters.

The collective farmers' congress and these meetings have presented our people in a totally different light. The people have become different. We should, comrades, think this over most carefully and understand this. For this prompts very serious, most serious conclusions. Our people have things to say and have the energies to contribute to the struggle for perestroyka. But they can only do this and realize their potentialities amid democratism, amid broad democratism.

And what I would say, to sum up the deliberations on this, the main subject of my address to you, is this: All our cadres should persistently master the methods of work amid unfolding democracy. This is a most difficult

science. At the Central Committee we have felt it as well, when examining major issues of national importance and conflict situations in our society. The experience of our three years of work after the April (1985) Central Committee plenum has led me, just as my comrades in the Politburo, to one conclusion; namely, that it is only through democracy, through a democratic process and broad, the broadest possible contact with the people, that it is possible to find the right, all-roundly weighed solutions to any problems in society. It is only in this way that the people can be enlisted in the active struggle to reach the objectives of perestroyka. Let us firmly agree to get decisively away from whatever is left of administration by fiat and orders and from the disrespectful attitude to people, to their needs and requirements, and to their opinions and judgments. Let me assure you: They will respond with ever greater social and political activity.

One more thing, comrades. In the past we attempted to tackle major issues, but we did not carry our efforts through to the end, did not fulfil what had been outlined. We have paid for this, let us say it bluntly, with serious setbacks in coping with plans for the nation's social and economic development. This has told strongly on popular well-being and on the entire progress of our society.

Conclusions seem to have been drawn from this, but obviously not by everyone and not everywhere. Looking at the past two years which opened the current five-year period, we can again see a gap between words and deeds.

The old illness keeps a firm grip and has become chronic. [The Moscow TASS English version adds: "Not infrequently, good decisions, even those taken now, at the time of perestroyka, are carried out only partially. This means that past mistakes are repeated."] In a measure, this can be explained by the fact that the old methods of work still have a strong hold and that worker collectives and executive personnel have not yet really adapted to the new conditions. The new economic management mechanisms have not yet been started up everywhere either. This is all true. And still, comrades, we could have achieved more, much more than we have.

I urge you to make a serious, party-style analysis of the state of affairs in Uzbekistan regarding fulfillment of the 5-year plan and the decisions passed in the republic. Why am I talking about this now? This is first of all because economic growth rates in this republic have declined over recent years. Ponder the situation. It means that the working people of the republic have received far from everything that they, and the country in general for that matter, could have received. Hence the imbalances and the disrupted general rhythm. All our republics are closely interconnected. In point of fact, they cannot live without one another. They form a single complex, a single national organism. And wherever something is wrong, it tells on the condition of the entire organism. Everything is interrelated in our state.

I draw your attention to the fact that you have not been coping with plans in industry, construction and especially in agriculture. You have home-building shortfalls every year, this despite the very acute housing problem in this republic. Prefabricated home-building facilities here are operating at only 68 percent of capacity and factories making bricks, cement and other construction materials are being expanded and modernized too slowly. How can one understand all this?

Or take another example, which is perhaps the most important performance indicator for this republic. I mean the use of irrigated lands. Comrade Nishanov was perfectly right in raising this issue and I support him. This is the republic's golden stock. It will be not enough to say that the yields of all the crops do not correspond to the potentialities of irrigated farming. The harvests have lately even begun to decrease. This is a trend which should worry all of us very much. Uzbekistan is the supplier of many crops that cannot be grown elsewhere. They are needed by the country. This is a real calamity, comrades, perhaps the chief calamity of the agro-industrial complex and the entire economy of Uzbekistan. Without irrigated lands used properly and efficiently, a normal life in this republic is not possible. That practically half of the irrigated lands need serious improvement, especially because of salinization, and in some places secondary salinization, will not do at all.

In the conversations I had yesterday with the workers it was remarked that there is a lack of child care centers in both town and country. And the pace of extending their network is clearly insufficient. Women in a new housing development on the outskirts of Tashkent yesterday surrounded me and the first thing they told me was: Mikhail Sergeyevich, we don't know what to do about our children; there is simply nowhere that we can leave them under care when we have to go to work. It should be made certain that no factory, no collective farm or state farm, and no building organization will remain outside efforts to deal with this important problem. The whole republic should be roused to tackle the problem of kindergartens. It is a matter directly bearing on people. It is in your conditions an urgent priority.

One more thing. That the potential created in this republic has not been bringing adequate returns is another lapse in your work. Large investments have been made in Uzbekistan's agriculture. And look: while the funds per farm ratio increased by 4.1 times between 1970 and 1986, gross output only grew by 50 percent. Labor productivity remained at the previous level. Agricultural production in the republic has not made gains since the early eighties. All these are very disturbing trends.

It is necessary to make a serious analysis, adopt far-reaching measures and mobilize the republic's working people. Uzbekistan is rich in natural and manpower resources and has large material stocks and machinery

fleets. I would like our discussion today to be remembered by everyone and make everyone think very hard. Real ways have to be found to get Uzbekistan's economy out of the difficult situation.

[The Moscow TASS English version adds the following: "What would I like to advise to you in this connection? If what I'll tell you now is acceptable, give it a thought."] Don't be carried away by building further and major enterprises. What is needed is to pursue modernization. And by updating their production assets, to bring out the possibilities of major enterprises. In order to put natural and especially manpower resources to use more quickly, however, the path of setting up medium-sized and small enterprises and factories' branches ought to be taken.

It is, no doubt, essential to make wider use of the possibilities offered by radical economic reform and the conversion to cost-accounting and new economic management methods. Where these have already been mastered, the payoff is quite different. They are changing the attitude to work and this is yielding better end results.

You can do much by developing the food and consumer goods industries widely. It is, in my opinion, simply your "gold mine". I think that in the near future Uzbekistan should reach a level enabling it to meet both its own requirements and the requirements of other republics.

Cooperatives and efforts to develop the service sector hold out much promise. You should, comrades, think this all over in a businesslike spirit and begin to identify all your possibilities, big and small.

I have the impression that the mood in the republic now is such that if the people are offered a good program, they can accomplish a lot and speed up social and economic development. This is, comrades, the paramount task for all leading personnel in the republican party organization.

Since we are talking from the standpoint of perestroika and the contribution of each to its implementation, I also would like to say this. We live in a multinational country. And now that we are effecting thorough-going changes in all society, we should always take account of their implications for our union as a whole and for each republic, and for interethnic relations. The resolution of any social and economic problem and any problem of culture, democratization and glasnost invariably affects the interests of every people, every ethnic group in this way or another. This is why these problems should necessarily be resolved in a way not damaging to their mutual understanding and cooperation. On the contrary, it is needed to make sure that the friendship of our peoples keeps growing stronger. It is a greatest gain of the October Revolution and socialism. This is one side of the problem, a very important one.

The other is that in the real life of the past few years, notwithstanding all the prodigious achievements of the Leninist policy of nationalities and notwithstanding the truly unique experience we have gained over the 70 years since the October Revolution, we have encountered quite a few serious problems that require careful study, balanced assessments, well-considered conclusions, and timely and correct decisions. I have already had occasion to talk on the subject. We should get rid of dogmatic, I would say schematic, attitudes in this field as well. We cannot limit ourselves to just listing our achievements.

Our society is developing. Its social and cultural progress, naturally, is being accompanied by the growth of the national awareness of every people and its intellectual potential and by the spiritual enrichment of every ethnic group. All this, naturally, engenders new problems which have to be seen and resolved on the basis of a calm and thorough analysis and objective judgements.

We should also take into account the fact that ever new generations are coming into life and that the experience of internationalism is not passed on automatically. Every generation has to go through its own school of internationalism and learn to value our interethnic brotherhood and everything that has been done to strengthen it by the preceding generations. Most importantly, it has to make a contribution of its own to strengthening the friendship and cooperation of peoples and bringing them closer together. Only such an approach will enable us to combine the economic, social, and cultural progress of each of our peoples with the further drawing together of all of them. Such are the dialectics of the nationalities question in our specific conditions, for we all live in an enormous multiethnic country.

In any dispute, in any debate on this issue, comrades, we can make out our case. At the same time we should be prepared seriously and responsibly to discuss pressing problems that should be solved and that can be solved within the framework of our democracy and on the basis of the principles of respect, equality and fraternity.

The scope of the tasks and the amount of the work has put the party in new conditions. The attainment of our aims depends today to a greater degree than ever before on how successfully the CPSU will perform the role of the political vanguard of society. The fate of perestroika hinges decisively on how the CPSU, the party Central Committee, the central committees of the Communist Parties of the constituent republics, every party committee. Every party organization and every Communist will act.

Perestroika in the country is a great revolutionary effort. The party keeps the main aspects of this far-reaching process of renewal within its focus of attention all the time. We have been able to do much over this short period. It is of fundamental importance that the party is leading the perestroika drive. But this does not at all

mean that the party is free from problems, oversights and tardiness in comprehending new phenomena and also in practical work, especially in fulfilling adopted decisions.

The CPSU is the generator of the ideas of perestroika and of the policy of renewal and the organizer of their realization in society. Naturally, this makes great demands on the party as regards theoretical research, the mastering of new methods to organize the masses, and work with personnel.

But the main thing is that the party should not lag behind the perestroika processes gathering momentum in the country. The lessons of the three years teach us that whenever the party falls behind in any area, this tells on the situation throughout society, on popular sentiments, on the pace and scale of changes, and on the shaping of public opinion in the spirit of perestroika.

The party can cope with the new tasks if it persistently masters the political methods of guidance and fully overcomes conservatism and inert thinking. Once we say that society should be freed from it and delivered from bureaucratic perversities, it is first of all the party that should set the example in this work, this immense effort highly important to the fate of perestroika.

We should renounce the methods of administration by injunctions and orders to personnel and worker collectives and stop substituting for state, local government and economic agencies. If the party acts imaginatively, innovatively and responsibly, working all the time in the midst of the masses, our cause will be warranted and perestroika, and consequently the whole of society, will make further progress.

It is perhaps appropriate here, at our meeting, to repeat what I have already had occasion to say before. The party has undoubtedly performed great services to the people and to history. It enjoys respect and prestige among the working people. But it should live up to its reputation all the time through vigorous political activity in the interests of the people and reaffirm its prestige. The party's prestige is not something given once and for all. It should be reaffirmed by stubborn and responsible work every day.

One more thing. I would like to remind you, even though I shall repeat myself, that the party is at the service of the people and not the other way around. He who forgets this does not deserve the title of a party member, let alone the honor of being at the head of a worker collective, a district or a region.

It is good that the activity of the Communists is on the increase everywhere. There is ever greater emphasis on principle in their work and they are coming to develop an ever stronger base of responsibility for the fate of the country and of their collectives. This has been demonstrated also by the past accounts by the party committees

on the progress of perestroika. The Communists are expecting higher standards from their elected bodies, party leaders and comrades. We should support active Communists in every way and seek to stimulate healthy trends in party affairs. It is very important to further extend intraparty democracy, increase the role of elected bodies, and drastically improve the performance of the party apparatus.

The spirit of comradeship should be strengthened in the party at every level. All should feel equal. We cannot even tolerate any elements of the cult of an infallible leader in the CPSU ranks, let alone any deep-rooted trends of it. The spirit of party-style comradeship should reign in the party. [applause]

The elected party bodies should lead a full-blooded life rather than be in the position of supplier of services for the party apparatus. Things sometimes go so far that members of the apparatus begin ordering about members of district, city and regional party committees. Everybody must be reminded that the apparatus should serve the particular elected body and fulfil its decisions, and not vice versa.

All the problems, the entire range of issues concerning the activities of the CPSU in the conditions of perestroika will be in the focus of attention at the 19th national party conference. But the party organizations should not wait and see what the party conference will say. Much has already been said. It is needed to act, not wait. It is needed actively to participate in the elaboration of ideas whose realization would enrich all party life. And every party organization in the specific conditions of its work should make a contribution of its own to accomplishing the challenging tasks of perestroika. Let me repeat, do not wait for instruction from above. The goals and the tasks have been set. The policy has been worked out. The guidelines of perestroika are clear. It is needed to act, comrades.

I think that the party organization of Uzbekistan, which has grown stronger as a result of self-recovery and cleansing, has every possibility as well to lead the masses and perform the role of the political vanguard of the republic's working people in their efforts for the further flourishing of Uzbekistan and for increasing its contribution to accomplishing the tasks of countrywide importance.

10,000 Sumgait Residents Reported in 'Shanties'
PM081532 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 88
Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with R.F. Eminbeyli, new "mayor" of Sumgait, chairman of gorispolkom, by special correspondents S. Dardykin and R. Talyshinskiy: "Sumgait: The Ispolkom's Concerns"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] As has already been reported, there is a new leadership in Sumgait—the gorkom first secretary and the ispolkom chairman R.F. Eminbeyli has been elected mayor of the city; he formerly worked as director of the aluminum plant. We met with him.

[Interviewers] Rasim Farkhadovich, how many days have you been in office?

[Eminbeyli] This is my 22d day.

[Interviewers] Is it strange, after the plant?

[Eminbeyli] I would not say so. The sphere of duties is much wider, but the basic principle is the same. And the difficulties and increased responsibility are connected with what the city has experienced. We have healed the external wounds, ail the apartments that were subjected to attacks have been restored. If the residents were not satisfied with the repairs, they have been redecorated. But the traces will, of course, remain in people's hearts for a long time. What has happened will have to be studied and studied. Thus far, only the top layer of what happened has been uncovered. Time will reveal what lies beneath it.

[Interviewers] It has been reported that after the tragedy some of the inhabitants left the city. Are those who left returning?

[Eminbeyli] They are returning. But only a few, thus far. It is easy to understand those who are hesitating and are refusing to return as yet. They need to believe that the same thing will never happen again. But general promises and persuasion cannot help here. People have to see for themselves. We invited three people from Sumgait who were staying in Razdanskiy Rayon in Armenia to come for a few days to see and experience for themselves: Here at home, people are waiting for them, their neighbors will be glad to see them. After visiting Sumgait, they went back to Armenia. I telephoned them—how are they? What have they decided? I learned: They are thinking about it, consulting. Well, it is up to them to decide.

[Interviewers] For a long time it was customary to speak of Sumgait in an elevated tone. They called it nothing less than "Komsomolsk-on-the-Caspian," the "city of youth." But this good, healthy mood eventually turned into false cheerfulness: There are problems, but people pretend not to see them. Take the whole settlements of homemade hovels cobbled together from whatever came to hand—the so-called "shanty towns" [nakhalstroy].

[Eminbeyli] More than 10,000 people are living in these conditions. Without water supplies, sanitation, or gas, in living space that does not meet elementary requirements in either quantity or quality. How did these people get into that situation? A young man comes to Sumgait. He finds a job—all this time, there was a great demand for manpower. He registers at a hostel. In a year or two, he

gets married. He joins the apartment list. But even now, nearly 18,000 people are on the waiting list for housing in Sumgait. If you are lucky, you might get an apartment in 10 years, if you are unlucky—15 years. Where can the young family go? They build themselves a hut out of plywood and corrugated iron, and while they are living there, they raise children, who have never seen anything except this hut. Today there are about 2,000 families in the "shanty towns."

[Interviewers] And tomorrow?

[Eminbeyli] The shanty towns are to be eliminated as soon as possible. That is task number one for the gorispolkom. We are planning to allocate plots and materials for individual construction. Construction cooperatives must be created. The chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, who visited our city again the other day, has promised to help provide everything necessary.

[Interviewers] The housing shortage is the most acute problem, but not, presumably, the only one that the new gorispolkom chairman faces?

[Eminbeyli] The ecological situation in the city is strained, to put it mildly. If you only count major enterprises of unionwide significance, there are seven of those. And chemical production and ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy predominate.

We are thinking about how to replan the work of urban transportation. Sumgait consists in effect of two zones now. And therefore in the morning the whole city of 250,000 people moves in one direction—from the residential zone to the industrial zone. And back again in the evening. Sometimes up to 15 bus routes pass the same stops. And therefore at peak hours there are crowds and a crush.

[Interviewers] Housing, transportation, municipal services, roads—these are the day-to-day concerns of every city. All the same, people are the main thing. How are they coping with what has happened?

[Eminbeyli] Your newspaper reported, and the readers know, that an investigation group of the USSR Prosecutor's Office is continuing its work in Sumgait, and I am convinced none of the culprits will evade responsibility.

Yes, the city was shaken. And it has not fully recovered from the shock. I do not think this can be dealt with in days, or even months. People gradually gain the ability to assess events and interpret them. I saw one scene: An Azerbaijani and his neighbor, an Armenian, who had returned to Sumgait, two elderly men, were sitting opposite each other, surrounded by their relatives, weeping, and with one voice cursing some third party they did not know. They were asking each other—where did he come from, that third party? How could he appear? That is the question that torments people today.

Lessons must be learned from any problem, however painful. We talked too much about our internationalism, passing off our wishes as reality. We did not think there was any need to fear exaggerations here. But the terrible damage done by "overreporting" had its effect here too. We set up splendid museums of international friendship and laughed at "harmless" anecdotes. We housed people in large apartment blocks, and did not think about how the young people would spend their leisure time, where and how they would socialize.

We must all formulate and implement guarantees against the repetition of errors. That is what we are thinking about today, all of us together.

Armenian Presidium Discusses Republics' Appeals
PM081135 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian
25 Mar 88 p 1

[ARMENPRESS report: "Session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] A session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium took place 24 March.

The session examined the question of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution "On Measures Associated With the Appeals of Union Republics Regarding Events in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijan and Armenian SSR's."

G.M. Voskanyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered a speech on this question.

V.B. Galumyan, deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; N.P. Stepanyan, secretary of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and Presidium members G.G. Akopyan, V.F. Artyunyan, R.M. Galstyan, S.Kh. Gevorkyan, N.V. Mkhitarian, A.A. Petrosyan, R.L. Petrosyan, and L.Ye. Khachatryan took part in the discussion.

K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session.

The Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted a resolution on the question under discussion, which will be published in the press.

Ukrainian Party To Mark 70th Anniversary
AU051436 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian
1 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has examined the issue of the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

The adopted decision recommends that the anniversary of the congress, held from 5 to 12 July 1918, be commemorated as an important political event in the life of the Communist Party of the Ukraine. Organizational and political measures connected with this event will be taken in the framework of preparations for the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

Work done by the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee in restructuring the ideological and moral education of young people in accordance with the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the 20th All-Union Komsomol Congress directives has been analyzed.

It was noted that ideological educational work among the republic's young people was intensifying, and new approaches were sought to shaping in young men and women political and moral qualities appropriate for the conditions of democratization and glasnost. However, deep and radical changes still have not taken place in this sphere, and educational work is frequently dissociated from the processes taking place in society and among youth.

The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee has been instructed to deepen restructuring in the ideological and moral education of young people, and to concentrate attention mainly on shaping among them an integral Marxist-Leninist world outlook, high political and civil qualities, and firm patriotic and internationalist convictions.

Party, administrative, trade union, and economic organs have been requested to intensify their assistance to Komsomol committees and organizations, and to make constant efforts to improve working, learning, and living conditions for young people.

Ways of intensifying glasnost in the activity of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee have been examined. It was noted that information about the activity of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and local party committees among the republic's Communists and working people has recently improved.

Improvements have been provided in publishing reports on sessions held by the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat. Individual issues examined in the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee are to be commented on by Central Committee and obkom secretaries, and leaders of ministries and departments.

The process of expanding glasnost and further developing internal party democracy will be enhanced by accountability reports on the work done in a given period by the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat delivered at obkom, gorkom, and raykom plenums by members and candidate members of the Ukrainian

Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, and by reports delivered in party organizations by members of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee on their work.

Particular attention was called to the need to expand glasnost in the work done to implement the decisions of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee. For this purpose the media will publish appropriate information about the activity of party committees, ministries, departments, executive committees of the soviets of people's deputies, and other organs and organizations.

Obkoms have been instructed to take additional measures in order to expand glasnost in party work, and to better disseminate experience in restructuring.

The Central Committee Politburo has examined assistance accorded by the republic's oblasts and students building detachments to non-black soil oblasts in the RSFSR. Measures have been specified to comply fully and on time with sponsor's obligations adopted for the 12th 5-year period.

Proposals made by the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers to restructure the system of improving the qualifications of and retraining leading national economic functionaries and specialists, as well as cadres for foreign trade activity have been approved.

Decision on Anniversary

AU080951 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian
3 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Decision of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee on the 70th Anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine"—boldface as published]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee has adopted a decision in connection with the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

In July 1988, the decision reads, it will be 70 years since the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine. The historic significance of this congress consists in the fact that the Communist Party of the Ukraine was constituted, on the Leninist ideological, organizational, and tactical principles, as an integral and inalienable part and a tried detachment of the CPSU. The unification of Bolshevik organizations on the scale of the entire Ukraine became possible owing to the victory of the Great October and the proclamation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

One of the first republic-level party organizations was formed under the direct guidance of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and of V.I. Lenin personally. This process reflected the

general patterns of development of a Marxist-Leninist party under the conditions of a multinational country and corresponded to the need to defend the October conquests, to bring about socialist changes, and consolidate the international unity of the working people.

In these 7 decades the Communist Party of the Ukraine, integrated within the Leninist party, traveled a difficult and at the same time a glorious path. In the times of both the heroic defense of Soviet rule and of peaceful construction it has been and is the militant vanguard of the republic's working class and all working people, and a reliable support for the CPSU Central Committee in the struggle to implement the party's plans.

The Ukraine's Communists and working people are at present fully aware of their responsibility for the successful implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, for accelerating socioeconomic development, and for energetic restructuring in all spheres of life. Active participation in this enormous, truly revolutionary work is the main patriotic and internationalist duty, is the supreme criterion of loyalty to the cause of Lenin, the cause of October.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee decision emphasizes the need to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine as an important event in the life of the Ukrainian Communist Party and in the lives of all the republic's working people. Measures to commemorate this event are to be taken in the framework of the entire organizational and political work performed to give a worthy welcome to the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference.

Obkoms, gorkoms, raykoms, and basic party organizations are expected to orient their entire activity in the preparations for the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine toward implementing the 27th CPSU Congress decisions, toward accomplishing the key tasks set for the new stage in restructuring, toward deepening democratization in public life, and toward a radical economic reform.

Party committees, the mass media, and appropriate ministries and departments are expected to make efforts to elucidate the heroic path covered by the Bolshevik party, the role played by the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and by V.I. Lenin in forming the Communist Party of the Ukraine, and in implementing the party's nationality policy in the interests of the working class and of all Ukrainian working people, and to ponder fraternal cooperation among the the USSR peoples.

The Institute of the History of the Party under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee—a branch of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee, the Higher Party School in

Kiev, and the Social Sciences Section of the Ukrainian SSR Academy of Sciences have been instructed to hold in June 1988 a republic-level scientific conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine.

Lectures, talks, subject exhibitions, and meetings with party veterans are to be organized in labor collectives, at scientific, cultural, and enlightening institutions to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine. The ideological educational objective of these measures should be to promote among the working people, and particularly among youths, the knowledge of the heroic past of our homeland, of the Soviet people, and of the Leninist party.

The Institute of the History of the Party under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee—a branch of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee—as been instructed to make more of an effort to publish selected works by prominent party and administrative figures of the Ukraine, as well as documents and materials on the history of the republic's party organization, and to make efforts to elucidate "blank spots," as well as the struggle waged by the Ukraine's Communists for the unity of the party against all kinds of opportunists and national deviationists.

The Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade, and the Institute of the History of the Party under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee—a Branch of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism under the CPSU Central Committee—have been instructed to re-publish the minutes of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine, to publish a collection of scientific works, and a statistical reference book entitled "The Communist Party of the Ukraine in Figures."

The expositions of the Kiev and the Lvov branches of the Central V.I. Lenin Museum will be replenished with materials on the history of preparations for and the holding of the First Congress of the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of the Ukraine.

Arbatov Views 'New Thinking,' Foreign Policy
LD081818 Moscow World Service in English
0310 GMT 8 Apr 88

["Second and closing part" of interview with Georgiy Arbatov by unidentified radio correspondent; date and place of interview not given—Arbatov's answers recorded in Russian fading into English translation; questions read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] We are now talking about new thinking, but this implies that there was old thinking. Does this signify a fundamental change in Soviet foreign policy?

[Answer] Georgiy Arbatov recalls the continuity of Soviet foreign policy. We wanted peace, he says, from the very first day of Soviet government. We wanted to be allowed to build our own society then and we still have the same desire now, but if we take methods and means it's not all so simple. True, the aims and principles of Soviet foreign policy have never changed—peace, the relaxation of tension, and disarmament—but our understanding of what was going on in international relations and in the world around us in general was quite often inadequate.

I believe, Georgiy Arbatov said, that we were too slow to understand new political realities and to abandon outdated concepts. We lacked initiative. We improvised too often and reacted to certain steps by the West in a rather primitive way. As a result the other side dictated its terms and rules and we had to fight battles on a hostile territory. The full-scale meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee in April 1985 was followed by a quick change for the better. Georgiy Arbatov believes that the Soviet Union has now regained political initiative and been extensively using it to promote peace, international security, and disarmament. The first results are already evident: a treaty with the United States eliminating two types of nuclear missiles, a better relationship with China, a number of West European nations, and many developing countries, and a series of bold steps to settle the regional conflict inside and around Afghanistan. Georgiy Arbatov reminds that all this, quite a record, has been done over a mere 3 years.

[Question] How would you describe the main thrust of Soviet foreign policy today?

[Answer] As before, we are committed to cooperation. We have put forward many new ideas which form an integral concept of security in a world full of contradictions, but at the same time indivisible and interrelated and interdependent. We believe that no country these days can ensure its own security at the expense of others. In a word, security problems must not be tackled by military means. As he spoke in the autumn of 1985 in Paris Mikhail Gorbachev warned that our minds tend to fall behind the quickly changing reality, and he said that we wanted to lessen and to eliminate this lag. Those were not mere promises. Soviet politicians have over the past 3 years made serious progress in terms of working out new political thinking. They put forward a number of bold ideas: of a nuclear-weapons-free, demilitarized and nonviolent world, of a comprehensive system of international security, and others. These major ideas and concepts have been formulated to last. They are beginning to gain strength and will likely have a profound influence on international relations. These ideas embody the choice the USSR made once and for all.

[Question] The Soviet-American INF Treaty eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles, signed on 8 December last year, is a triumph of new thinking, yet opposition

to this reasonable policy is rather strong in the United States. Are the opponents strong enough to cause any significant influence on the future of the INF policy? Georgiy Arbatov:

[Answer] Speaking of ratification of the INF Treaty, something extraordinary will have to happen to frustrate it. I am confident that the treaty will come into effect. This will happen before long, probably within a month. True, a real fight is going on, but the stakes are different. What will be the role and place of the INF Treaty? Will it be a minor episode or a major step forward in terms of reducing arms, reorganizing international relations and building a solid groundwork for international security? In the United States there are forces that are reluctant to abandon confrontation. There are forces of inertia, there are forces of outdated, rigid mentality. That's right. They seek to involve the USSR in military rivalry but, Georgiy Arbatov believes, there is a combination of several factors that allow us to look into the future with more optimism [words indistinct].

Perestroika, or renewal, reorganization in the USSR is one. This is a very important factor. Then there are certain economic restrictions—or safety catches, if you like—in the United States. Their role is very much in evidence. The United States is the world's richest country but it is the largest debtor nation as well. It has enormous debts, budget deficit, and trade balance deficit, and the competitiveness of its economy has been declining. Cutting budget deficit is one of America's main problems, but if deficits and the federal debt are going to be reduced there will have to be cuts in military spending.

One should also bear in mind that the role of military forces in the politics has declined. The use of force has simply failed to yield the expected results. The Persian Gulf is an example. The United States has brought a naval armada to the region. Did this lessen tension or bring about political settlement? No. Other factors have come to the forefront these days that have produced a dramatically new situation in the world in which we have to think and to understand that we can no longer follow old patterns. For instance, the Soviet Union does not want to compete with the Americans in building military bases and creating spheres of influence and we shall not. If the United States does something to which we shall have to respond we shall see to it that our answer is reasonable, asymmetric if need be, and meets the paramount interests of this country, its friends, and allies, and the entire world community.

[Question] General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan are going to have another meeting, this time in Moscow, from 29 May to 2 June. What can one expect of the forthcoming summit?

[Answer] There have been conflicting signs and reports, so it's hard to tell definitely at this point what outcome the summit will have. We believe that a treaty on

50-percent strategic offensive arms cuts can be finalized by the time of the summit. Unfortunately, at the Geneva negotiations on this issue there has been no progress. In some respects the Americans have even returned to old positions. True, one can imagine a summit without any major agreement signed. Even in that case it would be useful because it would improve the political climate, but we would like to hope for more.

Economic

Economic Crimes No Longer Bring Death Penalty *LD071802 Stockholm Domestic Service* *in Swedish 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88*

[Text] The Soviet Union will abolish the death penalty for economic crimes. This was stated by Soviet Deputy Procurator General Aleksandr Sukharev, who is visiting Sweden just now. Preferably the death penalty should be completely abolished, Sukharev said, but if this is not possible, it should be used only in extremely serious murder cases. A new Soviet penal law will reduce radically the practice of deprivation of freedom and make punishments more humane.

Light Industry Retooling Resolution Reported *PM070855 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 88* *Morning Edition pp 1-2*

[Unattributed report: "At CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a resolution "On Measures for the Retooling of Light Industry in the Period 1988-1995 Ensuring the Accelerated Solution of the Problem of Satisfying the Population's Commodity Needs."

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers noted that in the implementation of the instructions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) and February (1988) plenums on the accelerated solution of the problem of satisfying the population's commodity needs and on the boosting of the people's well-being to a qualitatively new level, paramount importance attaches to the implementation of fundamental measures for retooling light industry and ensuring its priority development.

The USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the union and autonomous republics' councils of ministers, ispolkoms of local soviets of people's deputies, and light industry associations and enterprises, scientific research and design and planning organizations, and fashion houses have been instructed to ensure the attainment of a fundamental breakthrough in satisfying the population's requirements for various light industry goods. The task has been set of achieving a substantial increase in the production of goods and the improvement of their quality and consumer properties on the basis of the all-around acceleration of scientific and technical

progress, the extensive use of modern equipment, resource-saving technologies, automated planning and control systems, full economic accountability [khoz-yaystvennyy raschet], self-recoupment, and self-financing.

A proposal has been accepted from the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, coordinated with the USSR Gosplan, on specific levels for the production of the most important items of light industry in physical terms as the basis for drafting the 5-year plan for this ministry for 1991-1995. Special attention has been paid to increasing the production of footwear, sewn and knitted articles, and hosiery, whose consumption in 1995 will be ensured to the level of rational norms or will come very close to these norms. The preferential growth of the production of goods for children, young people, and older people and of clothing and footwear for sport, tourism, and active leisure is planned.

The union and autonomous republics' councils of ministers and the krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms have been asked to step up work on the accelerated buildup of the production of light industry goods and the solution of tasks of satisfying the population's needs for these goods including through the organization of new production facilities, the modernization and retooling of existing enterprises and the creation of branches of these enterprises in small cities, settlements, and rural areas, and through increasing the shift operation and rational utilization of equipment.

The resolution which has been adopted is aimed at fundamentally improving the quality of the goods produced. The USSR Ministry of Light Industry and the union republics' ministries of light industry have been instructed in 1988-1995 to double the production of textiles, clothing, and footwear of improved quality and to treble the production of particularly fashionable articles. It is planned to improve the quality and comfort of footwear, including through a fivefold increase, at the least, in the production of footwear using the progressive molding method of attaching soles. It is planned to expand the production of cotton and silk textiles of improved finish and modern structure and color and to increase by 150 percent the production of shrink-resistant and crease-resistant textiles for raincoats, blouses, and shirts. It is planned to assimilate the production of fashionable knitwear from new types of fabric with improved finishes, including fabrics of the velvet, velour, and chamois types.

The USSR Ministry of Light Industry, in conjunction with the USSR Ministry of Trade and other interested USSR ministries and departments, has been issued with a recommendation to elaborate, in 1988, long-term concepts for the development of a range of light industry goods as the basis for forming and implementing programs for the fuller satisfaction of the needs of all groups of the population for various articles.

The resolution defines the main tasks for retooling light industry and measures for their practical implementation. The USSR Ministry of Light Industry and the union republics' ministries of light industry are instructed to ensure: the preferential development of the textile industry's finishing facilities for a fundamental improvement of the quality and esthetic and color design of articles in accordance with the demands of fashion; the widespread introduction of automated sets of equipment increasing labor productivity 50-100 percent in spinning, weaving, and sewn goods production facilities; the equipment of the knitwear industry with knitting machines with electronic program control, making it possible to use waste-free technology in producing articles from knitted components; the use of automated planning and modeling of textiles, clothing, and footwear, reducing by a factor of 2-5 the time taken to develop new items and put them into production.

In elaborating the draft plan for 1991-1995, the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Light Industry have been instructed to provide for the earmarking of R6.5 billion-R6.9 billion in state centralized capital investments to ensure the construction and commissioning of 387 very important light industry establishments, including 33 enterprises in Moscow, and to implement large-scale measures for the modernization and expansion of finishing facilities and training establishments and experimental bases at scientific research institutes.

Proposals have been adopted from the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the union republics' ministries of light industry, and the RSFSR Ministry of the Textile Industry on channeling at least R13 billion into the retooling and modernization of existing light industry enterprises in 1991-1995 (with the consent of the labor collectives) from the fund for the development of production, science, and technology and from bank credits. The USSR Gosplan and the USSR Gosstrib have been asked to ensure the allocation of the quota of capital investments and volumes of contract construction and installation work and material resources for these purposes.

The USSR Gosplan, USSR Gosstroy, union republics' councils of ministers, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Urals and West Siberia Regions, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Northern and Western Regions, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Eastern Regions, the USSR Ministry of Construction in the Southern Regions, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work, the USSR Ministry of Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises, the Moscow Gorispolkom, the Moscow Oblispolkom, and other ministries and departments charged with the implementation of the construction of light industry projects are instructed to provide in 1991-1995 for the quotas of contract work necessary to fulfill this resolution.

Light industry's own contracting construction organizations and the economic method of construction will be further developed. For this it is recommended that the renewal of the sector's existing stock of construction machinery and motor transport equipment be accelerated and that the volume of work performed by its own efforts be brought to R300 million in 1995.

The USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the union and autonomous republics' councils of ministers, and the krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms must ensure, in 1991-1995, the construction and commissioning of small- and medium-capacity enterprises and branches of existing enterprises using buildings made of light metal structures (modules) delivered in kit form to cover a total area of 1.5 million square meters. In 1989-1990 the USSR Gosstroy and the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work must develop standard plans and carry out the installation of buildings to accommodate light industry enterprises.

The resolution approves the main avenues for accelerating scientific and technical progress in light industry. The USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, and the USSR Academy of Sciences have been instructed to ensure the preferential development of research into the creation of progressive equipment and new manufacturing methods making it possible drastically to increase labor productivity and improve the quality of goods and the flexibility of production in updating the items produced. They must radically improve the activity of light industry's scientific subdivisions on the basis of the introduction and development of economic accountability and self-financing and the expansion of the ties between the sector's science and academic institutes and VUZ's. It has been recommended that science's integration with production be intensified, that the time taken to introduce finished work be reduced, and that the experimental and testing base of light industry's scientific subdivisions be consolidated.

There is provision for forming, under the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, an interdepartmental scientific and technical council for the priority avenues of scientific development in light industry, charging it with elaborating a strategy for the development of the sector's science, preparing proposals for specifying priority avenues and the procedure for financing work, and implementing, on a competition basis, the selection of head organizations and leaders for each avenue. Within the system of the USSR Ministry of Light Industry it is planned to reorganize the Central Scientific Research Institute of the Bast Fiber Industry into the Scientific Research Institute of the Comprehensive Automation of Light Industry and to create under it an engineering research center for problems of automation and the planning and production of clothing and footwear.

Special attention has been paid to the solution of the tasks of providing light industry with highly effective equipment. The USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry, the USSR Ministry of Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Defense Industry, the USSR Ministry of General Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of Medium Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Ship Building Industry, and the ministries of the machine building complex have been instructed, in 1988-1995, to increase by 150 percent the production of equipment for this sector and by the end of the period to ensure that its entire range within the comprehensive system of machinery for light industry complies with world technical standards. To this end in 1988-1995 it is necessary to elaborate and assimilate the series production of 882 new types of progressive equipment and to radically update 608 types of machinery now being produced (or to develop new types, depending on economic effectiveness).

In the 13th 5-Year Plan the ministries producing this equipment must, on orders from consumers, ensure the contract supervision of equipment provided with means of automation and microprocessors and the instruction of light industry enterprises' repair personnel and adjusters in servicing this equipment. The USSR Ministry of Light Industry in conjunction with the ministries of the defense sectors of industry and machine building has been asked to elaborate and submit to the USSR Council of Ministers an integral comprehensive program for modernizing equipment installed at light industry enterprises. The USSR State Committee for Computer Technology and Information Science has been given responsibility for allocating the USSR Ministry of Light Industry computer and control packages and peripherals essential for carrying out work to retool the sector.

With a view to the reliable provision of light industry with agricultural and chemical raw material, the USSR Gosagroprom, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for the Chemical and Forestry Complex [khimiko-lesnyy kompleks], and the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Social Development have been instructed to prepare and introduce within 6 months, observing established procedure, proposals containing specific measures to increase the production and considerably improve the quality of cotton, silk, linen, wool, leather and fur raw material, modern types of chemical fibers and yarns, dyes, and other materials.

The USSR State Committee for Public Education, the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, and the union republics' councils of ministers have been asked to ensure a considerable improvement in the quality of training and retraining of worker cadres and specialists with higher and secondary specialized education for light industry capable of rapidly mastering new equipment and technology.

Proceeding from the demands of the CPSU Central Committee February (1988) Plenum, the USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, the USSR Academy of Sciences, and the USSR State Committee for Public Education have been asked to restructure the system for improving the qualifications of the sector's specialists and scientific assistants and to make active use for this purpose of the potential of VUZes and the USSR Academy of Sciences institutes. It has been deemed essential to provide in 1988-1995 for on-the-job training for scientific workers, technicians, design artists, designers of articles, draughtsmen, and other specialists at leading enterprises in this country and abroad.

The USSR Ministry of Light Industry, the union and autonomous republics' councils of ministers, and the krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms have been issued with a recommendation to ensure, in accordance with the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), the comprehensive solution of questions of the production and socio-consumer development of light industry enterprises during their retooling, modernization, expansion, and construction. The necessary quotas must be provided for contract work, as must material and technical resources for the construction of apartment blocks, children's preschool institutions, hospitals, polyclinics, sanatoriums and treatment centers, and clubs using the funds of light industry enterprises. Exhaustive measures must be taken for the full assimilation of the capital investments earmarked for these purposes.

To resolve the housing problem as rapidly as possible it has been recommended that the sector's enterprises use all sources of funds for constructing apartment blocks and individual houses in small cities and population centers, including through the economic method, using local construction materials. Favorable social conditions must be created directly at the enterprise by improving the organization of public catering and medical services and developing various paid services.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have obliged the union republic Communist Party central committees, the party kraykoms and obkoms, the USSR ministries and departments, union and autonomous republics' councils of ministers, and krayispolkoms and oblispolkoms to view the retooling of light industry and the sector's provision with modern equipment and progressive types of raw and semifinished materials as one of the most important party and state tasks. In carrying out organizational and political work they must proceed from the need to ensure the priority development of light industry and to improve the technical standard of the sector's production and scientific base for the accelerated solution of the problem of satisfying the population's needs for commodities.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers express the certainty that the collectives of the light industry associations, enterprises, and scientific

research, planning and design, and manufacturing organizations will make a fitting contribution to the solution of the priority task set by the 27th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum—the task of fundamentally improving the population's provision with goods—and will do everything for the successful fulfillment of this resolution.

Biryukova on Need for Quality Consumer Goods

LD062012 Moscow World Service in English

0700 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] A secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Aleksandra Biryukova has said that the trend towards solving pressing social problems is a typical feature of perestroika in the USSR. One such problem is to make fashionable and (high) quality consumer goods more abundant in the country, she said in an interview. In the past 2 years, she pointed out, the output of consumer goods in the country has increased by almost 10 percent. In the current 5-year period as a whole it will rise by one-third. Until recently the consumer goods industry lagged behind the rates of income growth, Biryukova said. To deal with this discrepancy the government is investing billions of roubles in the area.

Agricultural

Media Report 4-9 Apr Agricultural Developments

LD100056 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 4-9 April. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

4 April

Kurgan farmers have started harrowing and top-dressing of winter perennial feed crops earlier than usual before sowing next month. (0204)

Cotton sowing has begun in the Vakhsh Valley in Tajikistan. This year, for the first time, farms are independently deciding their crop structure. For this reason a reduction of more than 10,000 hectares is planned in the area sown to cotton. Intensive technologies and high-yield strains will be used on the remaining cotton fields. The areas newly made available are now being used for feed crops to solve the acute problem of feed for livestock farms. (1100)

Corn growers in Stavropol Kray are now preparing the soil there. They are to bring gross output to 1 million metric tons by the end of the 5-year plan, effectively doubling it, mainly through increased yield. This will be

facilitated by a scientific production system called kuku-ruza. This was first used on 5 farms last year and now extends to 60 sovkhozes and kolkhozes in the kray. (Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130)

5 April

Top-dressing by aircraft is underway in Belorussia. They will treat more than 1 million hectares. Mass sowing of cotton has started in Zhdanovskiy Rayon in Azerbaijan. Unfortunately not all the cotton was of the first grade. Industrial tests of new, highly productive strains developed in Azerbaijan has lagged unjustifiably. It is not planned to complete them before autumn. (0030)

Mass field work is underway in the southern part of the country. According to the all-union operational headquarters of material and technical supplies to rural areas, 90 percent of the tractors have been repaired in the country as a whole, somewhat more than last year. Preparation of machines like the K-700 is going better. Repair of sowing machines, cultivators, and plows is complete, though fewer tractors have been repaired than last year in many oblasts in the RSFSR. Feed harvesting has started in Central Asia, but many machines in Turkmenistan and Tajikistan are not ready to take part. (0100)

Trial sowing of spring crops began today in Lvov. (1100)

Sowing machinery is out in the fields of the Ukraine's southern oblasts. Early spring crops are being sown in the Crimea, Odessa, Nikolayev, Kherson, and Voroshilovgrad Oblasts. Top-dressing is in progress in the forest, steppe, and northern zones. In Kazakhstan, sowing is underway on a line a little less than 1,000 km from the most southern point of Chimkent Oblast to the Balkhash sands. Wheat and barley sowing began today in the northern Tyanshan. (1300)

The farms of Tajikistan are to sow cotton on 313,000 hectares of land, with roughly one-third taken up with fine-fibered strains. (1330)

6 April

Cotton sowing has started 10 days earlier than usual in Kara Kalpakia, thanks to warm weather. (1100)

7 April

No fileworthy items monitored.

8 April

Mass sowing of early summer crops has started in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast. Seeds of barley, oats, and peas are to be sown to an area of 500,000 hectares here. (1100)

Sowing work is in progress in the majority of rayons of Kursk Oblast, where failed winter crops are to be resown on 150,000 hectares. The best-organized work is going on in Belovskiy and Sudzhanskiy Rayons, where contracting collectives are operating. (1100)

9 April

Spring field work on farms in Chimkent Oblast in Kazakhstan has moved from the grain fields to the corn plantations. Machine operators in Golodnaya Step and Keles Valley, who began sowing today, have decided to complete sowing in 5 to 6 days. Working under conditions of full financial autonomy, this year special emphasis has been placed on producing marketable grain. It is planned to harvest over two times as much as last autumn. Three-quarters of the plantations will be cultivated using intensive technology. (1300)

Scientific

Week's Work Aboard 'Mir' Complex Described LD081128 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are completing one more week aboard the orbital complex Mir. The flight programme in the past two days included astrophysical research with the use of international orbital observatory Roentgen and apparatus Maria, experiments with materials in space. Work also continued on the structure and optical characteristics of the earth atmosphere.

A series of experiments to study the peculiarities of the process of crystallization of metal alloys in zero-gravity were held. The aluminium-copper alloy was used as a model material.

Today the crew is undergoing a medical check-up. Also today they will carry out astrophysical, geophysical and a series of microbiological experiments.

The flight is continuing normally.

Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov feel well.

Further on Work

LD080231 Moscow in English to North America
2200 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The two Soviet cosmonauts, Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov, are now in their 4th month aboard the Mir orbital space station. From our science correspondent, Boris Belitskiy, some details about their flight at this stage:

[Belitskiy] The crew has a very extensive research program. Just now, for example, they are conducting regular surveys of the territory of the USSR. This work has been

commissioned by various organizations concerned with geology, meteorology, agriculture, forestry, and other areas of science and the economy.

The cosmonauts are also operating a pilot plant called Korund. Its high temperature electric furnaces are being used to grow extra-pure crystals of semiconducting materials which it is difficult to make on the ground.

The crew are also conducting biomedical research. This has the aim of establishing how long human beings can endure the weightless conditions—knowledge essential for organizing future manned interplanetary flights.

Every day at 90-minute intervals, on the average, the cosmonauts are in communication with Mission Control. Here's an example of how such sessions sound. [audio carries electronic high pitched beeping] You first heard the electronic call signals of Mission Control. After an exchange of greetings with Mission Control, the cosmonauts were told to switch on the television camera on board the station. Mission Control wanted to know how a new facsimile system was performing in space. The system had been delivered to the station in a Progress transport craft and was intended for transmitting scientific and technical data to the crew. Another reliable communication channel now links the earth with the space station.

All these channels from space converge at Mission Control in the town of Kaliningrad near Moscow. Mission Control maintains communication with spacecraft in earth's orbit and, if need be, over interplanetary distances. It keeps a vigilant eye on the conditions of space vehicles. Whenever necessary, it issues commands that cause them either to accelerate or retard their motion that correct their orbits or enable them to link up with other space vehicles.

Once a space vehicle becomes manned, the role of such commands by radio greatly increases in importance. Without the support of Mission Control, the cosmonauts would find it hard to cope with the flood of data they have to handle. For example, over 3,500 different parameters are measured aboard the Mir station and transmitted to earth. They range from the pressure in the engine propellant tanks to the blood pressure of the crew members.

In the main hall at Mission Control, there are up to 30 people at 5 rows of control consoles during a manned flight. These are highly skilled operators, ballistic experts, (?collimatory) specialists, physicians, and scientists responsible for this or that experiment. Two of the six powerful computers at the center are constantly in operation, with two other pairs in reserve.

The flight of the Mir station with its current two-man crew is being closely followed by numerous ground and ship-board tracking stations. They relay data from the space laboratory and commands to it. The whole system

has to operate with split-second timing. You must remember that the station is hurtling through space at a speed of 30,000 km an hour, and a radio signal from it to Mission Control has to follow an intricate route tens of thousands of kilometers long. On top of all this, all the tracking stations are in different time zones. So it is not surprising Mission Control and the tracking stations use clocks that have an error of no more than 1 second in 300,000 years.

Plans To Explore Mars Satellite Phobos Continue
LD080850 Moscow World Service in English
1500 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Soviet scientists have developed unique equipment to explore Phobos, the satellite of Mars. One of the probes will make 20 meter leaps on the planet's surface to explore different spots on it. The other is to dig into the planet's ground and turn into a laboratory. The probes will be brought to Phobos by an automatic station to start from the earth's orbit in July. The station will survey the planet's surface from the height of a 15-story building and send its photos to earth. During the experiment, lasers will be used to study the planet's ground. The instruments to be used in the experiment have been developed jointly by 14 countries, and the European Space Agency.

Cosmonaut on Cost, Crew
LD092314 Moscow TASS in English 1357 GMT
9 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—BY TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova:

"How much does it cost to send the manned mission to Mars, planned for the early next century?" This correspondent asked Soviet Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov, a veteran of two space flights, including the joint Soviet-U.S. expedition Soyuz-Apollo.

"Some specialists believe that the Mars mission will cost roughly the same as the American moon program—25 billion dollars. Others estimate it at 60 billion," the Soviet cosmonaut replied.

"Such mission will require several launches of expensive booster rockets and of sophisticated spaceships of new modification. But I believe that we can do it on a budget of 30 billion. Any way, economists will be able to provide more accurate estimates with time. The funds, however, are not the main thing, because this mission is needed by mankind at large. It is dictated by the demands of the reason [as received] and progress."

"Incidentally," Leonov continued, "I was asked the same questions in the United States, to which I replied: 'Just imagine what would have happened if the Spanish queen had been too stingy to finance Columbus' expedition. He would not have discovered America....'"

Aleksey Leonov believes that the mission to Mars may be manned by an international crew, most probably, by the Soviet-American crew. The two countries have set a good example of joint work in space. Besides, the elimination of a whole class of nuclear weapons under the Soviet-U.S. agreement inspires the hope that man's reason will triumph and the released funds will be channeled into major peace projects, the manned mission to Mars in particular.

The Soviet cosmonaut reminded that two Soviet space vehicles of new modification would be launched to Mars early in July under the international Phobos project. This major international multi-purpose project brought together scientists from 14 countries and the European Space Agency who are involved in research, experiments and designing complex apparatus.

Zholkver Describes Japanese Space Power Station
LD091119 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1910 GMT 4 Apr 88

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] News came in today from Japan on yet another technological innovation that is being planned there. As the newspaper MAINICHI has reported, Japanese scientists are working to build an orbiting power station in space that would be capable of supplying the earth with power obtained from the sun. The plan is to launch a first experimental Japanese satellite to test this work in the first half of the 1990's. Then, using solar batteries, the special space station would accumulate power and send it to certain points on earth in the form of electromagnetic pulses. However, it is true that the man in charge of this project, Professor Akiba, has warned of the need to determine what effect there could be on the environment from the transmission to earth of concentrated electromagnetic bursts.

All this might seem like something from science fiction, although in recent times science has, not infrequently, outstripped what might have appeared the wildest science fiction invention.

Briefs

Computer Center Operating

A large computing center has begun operations in the Belorussian Research Institute of Scientific-Technical Information and Technical-Economic Research in Minsk. Information about new technical developments is recorded in the computer's memory. Enquiries from enterprises or other institutes can then be easily handled by simply accessing the required information. This eliminates the need for lengthy correspondence and journeys between various organizations. This is particularly important to cost-cutting financially autonomous organizations. The center is now being used by hundreds of

enterprises. Only 1 week's training is required to enable a person to use the computer. [Summary] [LD090410 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 7 Apr 88]

Military

Leaders Mark Air Defense Troops Anniversary
LD091319 Moscow Television Service
in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A solemn soiree devoted to Air Defense Troops Day took place today in the Central Theater of the Soviet Army in Moscow. Comrade Baklanov; Lukyanov; Comrade Belousov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of ministers; leaders of some ministries and departments; representatives from party, soviet, and public organizations; and veterans of the Armed Forces were among the Presidium.

Army General Tretyak, commander in chief of the Air Defense Troops and USSR deputy minister of defense, who spoke at the meeting, noted that today servicemen of the Air Defense Troops, who have inherited the combat traditions of older generations, are succeeding in solving training and combat tasks and are carrying out a vigilant watch aimed at defending the socialist homeland's air borders.

Tretyak Marks Celebration
LD101642 Moscow Television Service
in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 88

[Air Defense Troops Day address by Army General Ivan Moiseyevich Tretyak, commander in chief of the Air Defense Troops, USSR deputy minister of defense, Hero of the Soviet Union, and Hero of Socialist Labor—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear comrade, only recently the Soviet people, the men of the armed forces, and our many friends abroad festively marked the glorious 70th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Today, by tradition, we are marking Air Defense Troops Day. This professional holiday was instituted by decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on 20 February 1975 to commemorate the great services of the Air Defense Troops in the Great Fatherland War and their fulfillment of particularly important tasks in peacetime.

The history of our branch of the Armed Forces has been written by several generations of Air Defense Troops. Today its pages are being filled with the active involvement of personnel in the steadfast fulfillment of the decisions of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government on defense matters. This is particularly important for us because serious shortcomings in combat readiness and control of troops contributed to the flight of an FRG sports plane over our territory with impunity

in May of last year. Unquestionably, that incident brought pain to the heart of every serviceman and of every Soviet person. The harsh and just assessment given to the Armed Forces and Air Defense Troops by the Central Committee Politburo made all of us double and treble our efforts to perfect the air defense system.

A target program, including a package of political, organizational, educational, and cadre measures in all spheres of the life and combat activity of formations and units, has been developed and is being implemented. A firm course toward restructuring and aspirations toward high practical results—this is precisely how the atmosphere in our military collectives can be described. The efforts of military councils, commanders, political bodies, headquarters, party and komsomol organizations are aimed at substantially increasing combat readiness and strengthening military discipline. We have everything we need for successful restructuring: clear-cut party directives, priceless combat experience, the required material base, and—the main thing—wonderful people brought up on the heroic traditions of the older generation.

Already the first subunits and units of the young Soviet republic's air defense set up at Vladimir Ilich Lenin's initiative contributed their might to the routing of foreign interventionists and internal counterrevolution. The Air Defense Troops covered themselves with new glory during the Great Patriotic War. The main result of their combat activity is determined by the fact that they saved large industrial and administrative centers of the country, thousands of populated areas and military sites from being destroyed and annihilated by the fascist air forces. During the war years the Air Defense Troops destroyed 7,313 enemy aircraft, over 1,000 tanks, about 1,500 guns and mortars, and also a lot of other enemy fighting equipment and troops.

The feat of arms of the Air Defense servicemen on the battlefields was highly appreciated by the homeland. The title of Guards was conferred on 3 formations and 26 units, honorary titles were conferred on 11 (?units), and orders and medals were awarded to more than 80,000 people. The rank of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred on 92 servicemen, and Comrade Karpov, captain and pilot-fighter, who fought in Leningrad's sky became Twice Hero of the Soviet Union. Thirty-four servicemen were entered forever into the rolls of military units.

In the post-war period, thanks to the tireless concern of the Communist Party and heroic labor of the Soviet people, the country's air defense has risen to a qualitatively new level. The equipment and the people have changed. The possibilities for fulfilling combat tasks have increased. Our servicemen confirm this readiness with practical deeds in their everyday combat work, fulfilling their internationalist duty. Last May, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA described the courage displayed on Afghan soil by Lieutenant Colonel Comrade Levchenko, Air Force pilot first class. In neutralizing dushman

anti-aircraft weapons, Anatoliy Nikolayevich [Levchenko] was injured. His plane was also damaged. The brave airman decided to destroy the enemies at the cost of his own life, and he aimed his fighter aircraft at the positions occupied by them. For this exploit, Lt Col Levchenko was posthumously awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union. The gold "Hero" star was also awarded to sniper pilot Colonel Comrade Zhukov. On one of his flights, Ivan Yefimovich [Zhukov] was training a young pilot to carry out a very difficult procedure. Unexpectedly, an emergency situation occurred which ruled out a normal landing. A high degree of skill and composure enabled Comrade Zhukov to complete the flight successfully in extreme circumstances.

The Air Defense Troops carry the responsibility of protecting the airspace of the country, whose borders are 60,000 km long; that is, one-and-a-half times the length of the equator. Missile troops, airmen, radar station operators, signallers, and other specialized troops fully realize their responsibility for the inviolability of the homeland's air space.

In formations and units, intensive winter training is currently under way. Speed and quality are being increased and elements of formalism in combat training are being overcome. Legitimate success comes to those who work without failures and with a view to the long term. Take, for instance, the collective of the three times decorated anti-aircraft missile guards regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel of the Guards Comrade Sashko. This regiment traces its history back to the fall of 1942. The battle of Kursk, the liberation of the Ukraine and Poland, and the Berlin operation were the main landmarks on the combat road traveled by the guards. The present generation of missile troops worthily continues the heroic deeds of the frontline troops. The regiment has initiated socialist competition in our branch of the armed forces in honor of the Great October Revolution anniversary. For last year's results, it earned the title of excellent and was awarded a Ministry of Defense pennant for courage and military valor.

Today, this consolidated and multinational military collective is again in the vanguard of competition, and judging by the first results, it is going to meet the 19th All-Union Party Conference with good results. We see the main prerequisite for successfully coping with tasks, which are becoming ever more complicated with every year, in the fact that we have many military collectives like that.

In the spring of 1945, the frontline soldiers believed that an end had been put to wars for good. But even today mankind lives in a disturbing and troubled world. Although hope-inspiring signs have emerged showing that the international situation is improving, the latest events repeatedly confirm that preserving the highest degree of political and military vigilance toward the aggressive strivings of imperialism is still topical. With

feverish haste the NATO reactionary circles are developing plans for filling the nuclear breach in Western Europe which allegedly emerged after the treaty on eliminating two classes of nuclear missiles was signed in Washington. The intensity of aircraft flights, exercises, and maneuvers conducted by capitalist countries in immediate proximity to our border is increasing. By their scale, duration, numerical strength, and the degree of saturation with military equipment they exceed by far reasonable limits, while their spearhead is still pointed against the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact member-countries.

Let us get it straight: The new political thinking and the principle of sufficiency in defense have not yet won the minds of all Western politicians and military. In his report entitled "October and Restructuring—the Revolution Continues," Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, stressed: As long as there is a threat of war and as long as social revenge remains the core of Western strategy and militarist programs, we will do all that is necessary, in the future as well, to maintain defense might at a level which will exclude a military superiority of imperialism over socialism. This party's demand is deeply understood by all our servicemen and they see their highest patriotic duty in the exemplary execution of constitutional duties of armed defenders of the socialist homeland.

The Communist Party and the Soviet people spare no effort to equip the Air Defense Troops with fine technology and arms, in accordance with the defensive nature of our military doctrine. The air defense shield of our homeland is being perfected by the selfless labor of scientists, designers, engineers, and workers. We are deeply grateful to them for this. The Air Defense Troops have been on watch for 7 decades. Their combat banners reflect the glory of the legendary heroes of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War. Under these symbols of military valor the successors of our grandfathers' and fathers' revolutionary, combat and labor traditions are carrying out their difficult and honorable service and are fighting for fulfillment of the historic decisions of the 27th party congress.

I convey cordial greetings to the generals, officers, warrant officers, sergeants, soldiers, and employees of the Soviet Army, the families of the servicemen, our glorious veterans and workers of the defense industry on Air Defense Troops day. Best wishes, dear friends!

Commander Recalls Rust Incident

LD092231 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1430 GMT 9 Apr 88

[Talk by Lieutenant General Rasim Suleymanovich Akchurin, commander of the Air Defense Forces Surface-to-Air Missile Troops, on the occasion of Air Defense Day—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] On 10 April our country's working people and those serving in the USSR Armed Forces will hold a solemn celebration of Air Defense Day. [passage omitted]

Paying a tribute of deep respect for the heroism and valor of the older generation, Air Defense servicemen hold sacred and are multiplying the glorious combat traditions. However, elements of stagnation and the braking mechanism have manifested themselves in our troops, too, which was shown by the fact that the FRG light aircraft overflew Soviet territory last May. The severe evaluation of this case given by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and the measures adopted for resolutely improving the alert duty are yielding results. First of all, responsibility for the discipline and quality of alert duty and combat training of units and subunits has been intensified. But the event is a lesson to all and for all times, a lesson which should constantly remind us of the duty and honor of those defending the air borders of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Paper's Readers Discuss INF, Afghan Issues
PM081417 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 5 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Article by Captain 1st Rank V. Kuzar, editor of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's Foreign Department and member of the editorial board, under the rubric "What Is in Readers' Mail": "Without Prejudice"]

[Text] "Is the treaty concluded on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles not a tactical maneuver, when the new U.S. Administration will be able to force us once again to embark on the creation of the missiles destroyed earlier to undermine our state's economic might? Where are the guarantees that this will not happen? U.S. imperialism was, is, and will be bellicose. It is underpinned by tremendous military might and continues to rob the peoples, at the same time changing its tactics..." This is the letter we received from reader K. Artemyanin of Minsk. He is far from being alone. His thoughts are shared by others.

The editors' mail in March was permeated more than ever before by a certain alarm, by doubts, and by anxiety in connection with the signing of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles. The letters from G. Shnayder of Bukhara, A. Kovaleva of Dorogobuzh in Smolensk Oblast, V. Mokhov of Krivoy Rog, and other readers were marked by contents of that kind. Naturally, the question of what had brought this about arose. You would have thought public opinion long ago had approved the Soviet-U.S. agreement to eliminate intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and advocated its speediest ratification. At the same time, many words were said to the effect that the treaty not only does not infringe our country's security in any way but also enhances it. Nevertheless, readers voice concern. "I am not against the destruction of these terrible weapons on

land," Lieutenant Colonel N. Baranov, retired, writes, for example, from Krylovskaya Station in Krasnodar Kray, "but the further that events develop, the more alarm there is."

Readers do not hide what has given rise to such sentiments. They attentively follow the international situation and react keenly to all its nuances brought to light by glasnost. Characteristic in this respect is a letter from V. Malchukov of the village of Meshki in Kalinin Oblast. The Soviet mass media, the writer points out, are disseminating views that we must overcome prejudice and rid ourselves of the complex of mistrust of U.S. policy. "But how is this to be done," the reader asks us, "if Washington's practical actions prevent it? A single provocation in the Black Sea cancels out all our good intentions."

It should be pointed out that the editors received a lot of mail about that incident. In their letters M. Ryzhov of Kishinev, F. Kiselnikov of Nelidovo in Kalinin Oblast, B. Smirnov of Poltava, and other readers consider that the U.S. warships' raid toward Soviet shores was of a plainly political nature. The purpose of that provocation, they emphasize, was to introduce complications into Soviet-U.S. relations. To a certain extent, this was achieved, to judge from the reaction of public opinion regarding the true U.S. intentions.

At the same time, our writers note the Soviet seamen's restraint and their determination in stopping the brazen action. I. Shatskiy from the settlement of Akhtyrskiy in Krasnodar Kray recalls that this was not the first incident of this kind, and he asks whether people there, in Washington, realize how dangerous such playing with fire is.

Our readers evaluate the fuss raised at NATO over the "modernization" of nuclear arms and the preparations being made there to "compensate" for the nuclear missiles which are to be destroyed as intrigues by those forces which dislike the improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations. V. Ivanov's letter from the village of Kundryuchenskiy in Rostov Oblast attracted attention in this connection. It did so not only because of its sober view of the surrounding world but also because of the purity of the writer's motives: "We must strengthen our motherland's defense capability and spare no means for this. If necessary, we will send as much as we can from our own family budget. We will not lose but, on the contrary, gain from this, like our entire country."

Many letters weigh and analyze the situation in various parts of the planet. Our readers have not been left indifferent by the events in Panama and India, Nicaragua and Ethiopia, Angola and Southeast Asia. They write angrily and indignantly of the Israeli authorities' reprisals against participants in the Arab uprising. Thus, Ye.

Yeghyan of Ternopol demands in his letter an immediate end to the repression and the taking of all measures to justly resolve the Palestinian problem and ensure peace in the Near East.

However, to judge from the letters, the closest attention is being devoted to Afghanistan. The writers look with hope on the policy of national reconciliation in that country. At the same time, they believe the interference of Western states in the Afghan people's internal affairs is the chief obstacle in the way of implementing it. Many readers voice the opinion that the United States will hardly abandon military support for the Afghan opposition, because it is interested in preserving a hotbed of tension close to Soviet borders. "How will our country act in that case?"—servicemen O. Polyakov and I. Zolotukhin of Moscow Oblast ask. "Will the Soviet troops be withdrawn from Afghanistan?" The answer to these questions has already been given. It was heard, in particular, in USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze's interview with the newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO, which was recently published in PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA.

As always at the end of the review of the editors' mail, a few words about the readers' attitude to materials on international topics. This time there were fewer critical comments, and more positive ones. The following fact also manifested itself.

The rubric "International Observer Replies to a Reader" has now existed in the newspaper's pages for more than a year. The attitude toward the materials carried under it differs, as the quality of the responses themselves probably does too. But this is what is interesting. Certain readers, who disagree in some way with an article's substance, frequently ask: Is this the position of the editors or of the Ministry of Defense, since the newspaper is the latter's central organ? Letters with such contents have come, for example, from Ye. Komyakov of Moscow, M. Kolomoitsev of Simferopol, and other readers. I would like to say the following in this regard. It can be seen from the title of the rubric that the reply to the reader is given by an international observer, not by the editors. Consequently, the author's own, personal views and ideas can be set forth in it. He has the right to this, just as our readers do. Incidentally, this also applies to other newspaper articles, and not only those on international topics.

Movie Views Rokossovskiy, Stalin Relations

PM071559 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 April 1988 Second Edition carries on page 4 under the headline "The Movies: The Living Image of the Commander" a 1,500-word commentary by V. Vozovikov on a new documentary entitled "Marshal Rokossovskiy, His Life and Times." Vozovikov notes that during the last war Rokossovskiy won the "love of the people and servicemen" and that the movie "clearly" tries to show how that transpired. The writer says that Rokossovskiy was a "talented military leader" who was distinguished from others by his "exceptional personal bravery." The review mentions Rokossovskiy's early career in World War I, his individual qualities of simplicity, accessibility, and concern for others, and briefly examines the reasons for his dismissal and arrest in 1937; namely, that he refused to abandon his views on the need to replace the Red Army cavalry with mechanized forces at a time when such views were considered "seditious." Vozovikov alludes to the "tragic consequences" of the "personality cult," although he notes that the "erroneous concepts" which led to the arrest of Rokossovskiy and others were revised before the war and that Rokossovskiy himself was released in 1940. The review then comments on the documentary's presentation of biographical and military details from Rokossovskiy's life and on the "tragic" first days and months of the war, before noting:

"The movie shows pictures of the military parade on Red Square with Stalin, Zhukov, and Rokossovskiy on the Mausoleum. The commentator rightly notes that these three men were the most renowned people in the country, but follows that with the phrase: Stalin seemed cramped in such brilliant company and for that reason one of the marshals was soon sent to command a minor district while the other was sent to Poland.

"I think that here the authors of the movie were clearly oversimplifying. Stalin's popularity in those years was so great that the proximity of even the most brilliant marshals could only augment it—and he, of course, understood that. The reason for Zhukov's removal must be sought elsewhere. Nor should one consider a 'disgrace' the departure for Warsaw of Rokossovskiy, who left our country at the request of the Polish Government to occupy the post of national defense minister and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic. As a Leninist party member and internationalist, Rokossovskiy served People's Poland as devotedly and selflessly as he served the Soviet motherland."